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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Pineda wins bartender competition at Taste. PAGE 2
31st Agricultural Fair names three winners. PAGE 13

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The leader of Thailand's military junta is officially endorsed by the king. ➤ PAGE 16

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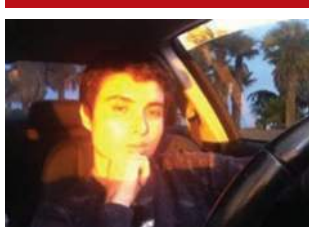

Denied again by people he hated and wanted dead, Elliot Rodger improvised. ➤ PAGE 17

WITH STILL NO US LABOR DECISION

WH help eyed in CW extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With barely a month before the July 4 deadline and still no word from U.S. Labor Secretary Perez whether or not he will extend the CW program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he's considering seeking "help" from the Interagency Group on Insular Areas that the White House co-chairs.

See CW on Page 4

Tuition hike at NMC in offing

» BOR admits rate hike proposal on the table, passage contingent on new budget

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students at the Northern Marianas College may face higher tuition rates next semester if a proposal to increase existing fees is approved by the Board of Regents.

BOR chair Frank Rabauliman confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that a management recommendation to adjust tuition and fees is on the board's table now.

NMC charges resident students $95 per credit and international students $190 per credit.

"We haven't made a definite decision on this proposal yet. We certainly going to do first the budget process and depending on what kind of resources that we get as a result of the budget calls, then we will make a decision," he said.

Until NMC knows exactly what it will get for next fiscal year's budget, any ac-

See TUITION on Page 4

VALOROUS SERVICE

Saipan Southern High School cadets stand at attention after the CNMI and U.S. military officials laid a wreath to honor fallen soldiers at yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. Fr. Romil Aterocho said, "Forgetting means dropping the torch," while Gov. Eloy S. Inos said Memorial Day brings a common "desire to give honor for [soldiers'] heroism and selflessness."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See story and more photos on Pages 14-15

Inos hopes resolution of Dynasty woes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he looks forward to the resolution of issues surrounding Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's ownership application, and hopes that Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. will comply with the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission's requirements as set by law and regulations.

He hopes that either the application issues will be resolved or "maybe they will have to figure out another organizational structure."

Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. is part-owner of Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc., which is one of the two investor groups applying for a license to exclusively develop a minimum $2-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan.

The Dynasty ownership application process, according to Inos, should not be a factor in the Saipan casino license application.

"They stand on their own. I think the management decision to continue to pursue the Tinian [Dynasty] plan with this window of opportunity [on] Saipan could be detrimental to the Tinian plan. It's just my own personal opinion. If it's just plan rejection, I can't believe that. If there's deficiency in the application, then I think it makes good sense to ask them to come in and fulfill the requirements," Inos said in an interview at yesterday's Memorial Day ceremony in Marpi.

See DYNASTY on Page 4

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Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marlon Pineda, eighth from right, was named champion at this year's bartender competition at the Taste of the Marianas. Also in photo are Northern Marianas Bartenders Association chair Lito Espino, far left, along with participants, runner-ups, and judges.

Pineda wins bartender competition at Taste

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan World Resort's Marlon Pineda won the Bacardi Superior Bartenders Mojito Cocktail Challenge last Saturday at the 2014 Taste of Marianas Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park.

Organized by the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, Pineda and eight participants went head to head against each other in six challenges, including one special challenge where participants had to concoct a cocktail with an Aloha drink.

Pineda's winning mix included Bacardi Superior rum as the base drink, mixed with lime juice, simple syrup, sliced lemon, and soda water.

Pineda also walked away with the "Best in Showmanship" award.

A bartender for Saipan World Resort, Pineda said it was his second time to win the bartenders competition at the Taste of the Marianas. Pineda also secured the championship in 2011 and placed third in 2009 and 2010.

Pineda received prizes such as a cellphone from IT&E, a gift from Duty Free Shoppers Saipan, a gift from Marpac, Coca-Cola products, and $150 cash.

Pineda said he is willing to train new bartenders so they can join next year.

"Our plan is to train new staff at World Resort for next year," Pineda said. "I feel happy and I'm proud of our operator for giving me the blessing again and my Saipan World Resort family for giving all their effort in cheering for me."

Other winners were Jay Santos of Jhonny's Bar, who won second place and "Best in Props"; Alvin Palma who won third place and "Best in Taste"; Eresea Kintoki of Hyatt Regency Saipan, who won in the Best Aloha Cocktail; and Joseph Solmarin, who was runner-up.

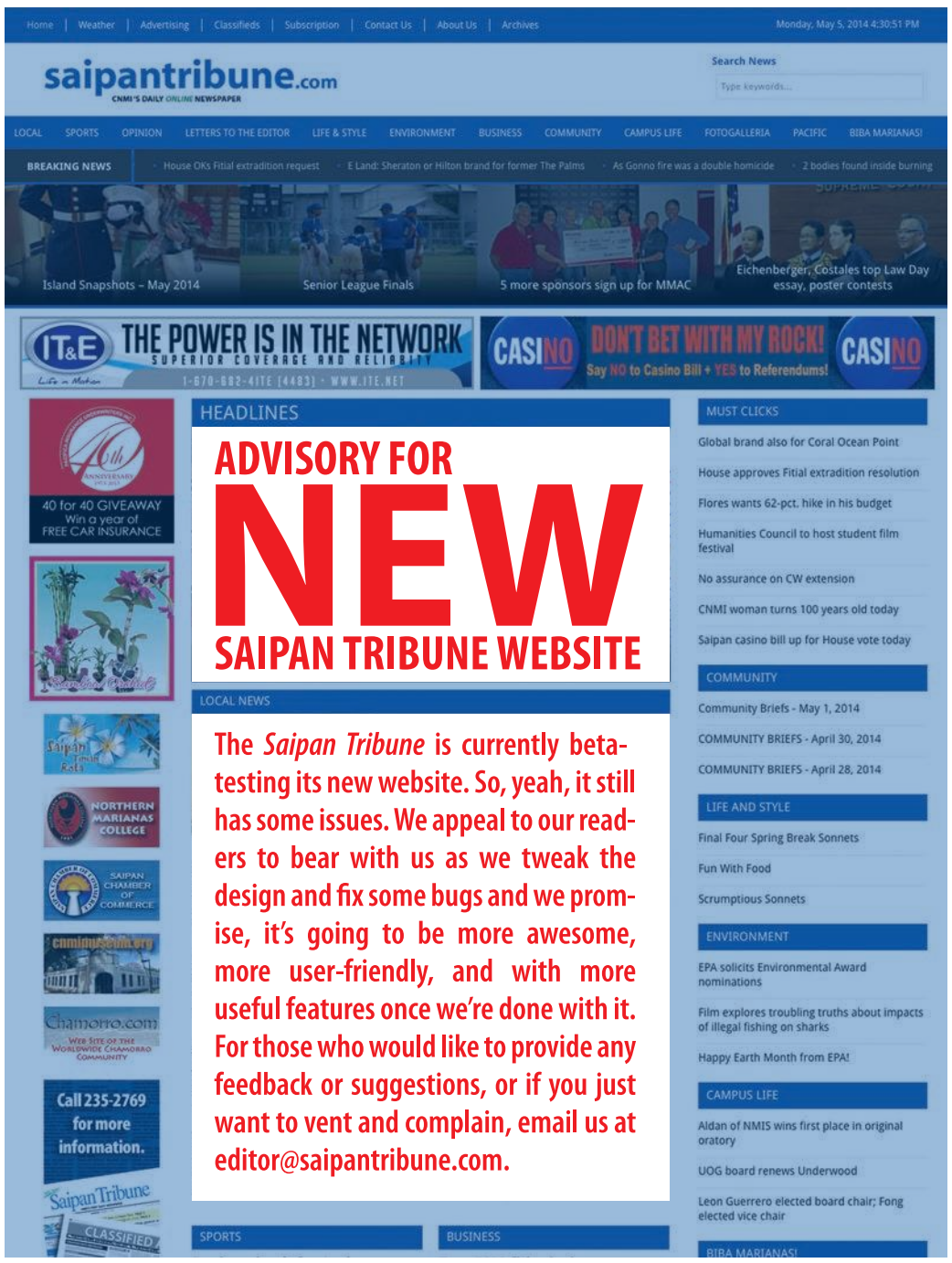
Other participants were Samylyn Atalig of Hyatt, Maria Rio of Pacific Islands Club, Lorenzo Divino of Coffe & Jazz, Mike Benavente of Grotto Bar & Restaurant, and Derol Tudela of Pacific Islands Club.

The panel of judges were Aqua Resort Club F&B manager Romeo Manzon, The Coffee Room N-106 owner Igor Karapetyan, Mariana Resort & Spa executive chef William Retardo, and assistant public defender Mike Sato.

Flor Miranda and Olive Yana of United Filipino Organization tabulated the participants' scores.

Sponsors for the event included the Marianas Visitors Authority, Marpac, Bacardi Superior, DFS Saipan, IT&E, Coca-Cola, The Coffee Room N-106, Armatech, and UFO.

NMBA chair Lito Espino would like to give special thanks to the sponsors, judges, competitors, MVA, and visitors alike for making the event a success.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The Saipan Tribune is currently beta-testing its new website. So, yeah, it still has some issues. We appeal to our readers to bear with us as we tweak the design and fix some bugs and we promise, it's going to be more awesome, more user-friendly, and with more useful features once we're done with it. For those who would like to provide any feedback or suggestions, or if you just want to vent and complain, email us at editor@saipantribune.com.
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Leyda Ada pleads not guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Leyda I. Ada has pleaded not guilty to the charges that she conspired with her husband in a health care fraud and food stamp scam.

During her arraignment on Friday in federal court, Ada, through her counsel Mark Hanson, pleaded not guilty to the second superseding indictment charging her with one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, one count of money laundering, five counts of mail fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit food stamp fraud, and one count of perjury.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the jury trial for Sept. 9, 2014.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy appeared for the U.S. government at the hearing.

The second superseding indictment alleges that Ada, who was employed by Midwest Medical Supply as an account manager, conspired with her husband, Melvin Ada, who was employed as a medical supply specialist at the Commonwealth Health Center, to amass some $1.8 million that he had unlawfully procured through the submission of false and fabricated documents at CHC.

At the time, CHC regularly purchased medical supplies and equipment from Midwest Medical Supply, a Missouri corporation. Because Midwest Medical Supply did not maintain any inventory in the CNMI, all of its products had to be shipped from warehouses in either Missouri or Guam.

In June 2004, Ada obtained a business license from the CNMI Department of Finance for a sole proprietorship doing business as "MMS, CNMI."

Ada's spouse, Melvin, as medical supply specialist at CHC, was responsible for facilitating purchases from and payments to Midwest Medical Supply.

Between 2004 and 2011, Ada's husband allegedly deposited 53 CNMI Treasury checks made out to "MMS Medical Supply Co., CNMI" or "Midwest Medical Supply Co. Inc." into Ada's business savings account at First Hawaiian Bank.

Immediately after Ada's spouse stopped reporting for work at CHC on July 5, 2011, he and Ada, assisted by others, did a series of financial transactions to conceal the proceeds derived from the health care fraud and embezzlement. Ada allegedly conspired with her husband and others to transfer assets such as cars to immediate relatives at no cost or for just $1.

From April 2006 to November 2012, Ada and her spouse filed Territorial Individual Income Tax Returns that unreported their true income to falsely claim that they are entitled to refund checks for tax overpayments and child tax credits.

On Sept. 23, 2011, Ada's spouse applied for food stamp benefits by lying that the household has no income, resources, bank accounts, or cash on hand.

The superseding indictment charged Ada with 16 counts. The original indictment charged Ada and her husband, Melvin, with 59 counts. Melvin pleaded guilty to 56 charges and awaits his sentencing.

Georgetown's contract expiring in Sept.; RFP to be issued

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission would soon issue a request for proposals, or RFP, for consulting services following disclosure that Georgetown Consulting Group's contract is expiring on Sept. 30, 2014.

Commission chair Joseph Guerrero and commissioner Dave Guerrero separately confirmed this with *Saipan Tribune*.

Georgetown has been the CPUC's consultant since 2007. It assesses and charges fees for the number of hours it works in a rate case and bills the regulated entity such as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Prior to sending its bill, these billings are fully reviewed and assessed by the commission, Guerrero said.

"There's no retainer. The fee is only when the case is made. So when there's a case [before us], our consultant start charging and bills it monthly—in this rate case—to CUC. The billing is very detailed on what it's charging. If there are no complaints, which we didn't hear [from CUC], it pays for it," said Guerrero.

CUC board chair David J. Sablan recently raised concerns over what he described as the high fees Georgetown charges CUC. It was earlier disclosed that payment to the consultant amounts to about half a million dollars. The consultant's seemingly "long process" of review was also criticized.

But for CPUC chair Guerrero, the fees that CUC pays Georgetown are justified and reasonable. In fact, Guerrero said, the fees assessed by Georgetown are considerably lower than what is being charged in other jurisdictions.

He explained that, for example, in Docket 13-01, which is the latest filing from CPUC and was filed in July 2013, there are numerous items for review and approval.

Guerrero described "Docket 13-01" as "not a typical rate case." In fact, he said the CPUC has broken down this petition to three schedules: in December, February, and May.

"We're always cognizant of the costs. The average simple rate case in the U.S…the number is maybe $120,000 for one simple rate case. In CUC's latest docket, there are 10 issues," said Guerrero.

On the "long period of review," he said the reasonable timeframe takes from three to six months. And because CUC's rate case encloses numerous items, a little more time is needed.

CPUC commissioners Joseph Guerrero, Dave Guerrero, and Oscar Quitugua separately told *Saipan Tribune* that they are satisfied with the performance of their consultant as well as hearing examiner Harry Boertzel.

Joseph Guerrero revealed that Georgetown Consulting Group was highly recommended by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The group, whose members are experts in the field, also provides similar service to commissions in American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Island, and Guam.

"Georgetown and our hearing examiner are providing good service since the start in 2007. Both came highly recommended by the federal government. They were recommended because of their track record," he said.

Guerrero encourages anyone, including the CUC board, to file a complaint on any issue for the CPUC to deliberate on the matter.

Without any filing, Guerrero said, CPUC will consider all issues raised as "hearsay" and warrants no response from the commission.

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80 attend National Prevention Week roadside waving

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 80 community members, teachers, and students attended the first roadside waving and health walk that commemorated National Prevention Week last Friday along Beach Road in Oleai.

Seven different schools entered the banner competition, did a roadside waving, and a health walk to Quartermaster along Beach Road.

Jody Abraham, prevention specialist at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center, said it was the first walk they've ever hosted and they hope to do it more often.

Students from Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School, Whispering Palms School, Tanapag Elementary, Garapan Elementary, Hopwood Junior High School, Mt. Carmel School, and Saipan Southern High School, along with their teachers and other registrants, were all given green tickets at the start. The green tickets were for the walk and the participants had to walk to Quartermaster and were then given a red ticket.

Abraham said the students would get free shirts once they turn in their tickets at the finish line.

All participating schools had different banners but every banner had the theme "Our Lives, Our Health, and Our Future." The winning banner will get $500 worth of school supplies.

Under the elementary school category, SDA School took first place, while Hopwood took first place for the junior high category and Saipan Southern took first place in the high school category.

Ramnes Karben, 14, an eighth-grade student at SDA, said he enjoyed the activity as it was his first time to join.

En Ming Cadac, 13, also a student of SDA, said he enjoyed the event as well.

"I think we came here for prevention and we need to stay healthy and also support the prevention of bad things from entering our body," Cadac said.

Hopwood's National Junior Honor Society president Casey Huliganga, 13, said they attended the event to raise health awareness and prevent the use of illicit drugs.

Hopwood art teacher Fred Salavaria said it was a great experience for students because it taught them about "diseases that are increasing and to expose them to healthy living so it's better if they get more exposure to these events and get them to come out and see that the community is a part of it as well."

National Prevention Week seeks to raise awareness of behavioral health issues and help create healthier and safer communities.

Ex-Democratic Party chair explains why he joined Babauta-Torres team

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Democratic Party chair Benjamin M. Cepeda said yesterday that leaving the political party of his forefathers was painful but he said this election year "is not about party but about who can serve our islands and people best." Cepeda joined the independent gubernatorial team of former governor Juan N. Babauta and former senator Juan S. Torres.

"The decision I made comes from the heart and belief in certain candidates currently running for office," said Cepeda, speaking for the first time about leaving the Democratic Party barely three months since it was reorganized and about joining the Babauta-Torres team. Sources confirmed his resignation and move to the independent team last week.

Cepeda

"While I appreciate serving in this important [Democratic] party position, even if only for a few months, I must say that I am greatly honored to have been a part of the once upon a time major party in the CNMI," he said.

Cepeda is seeking a House of Representatives seat representing Precinct 1 under the Babauta-Torres team.

He enumerated CNMI problems that he said were because of the government, including the 25-percent cut in retirees' pension, high costs of utilities, lack of training programs for U.S. citizens, political hiring, favoritism involving businesses, and relationship with the federal government.

"Upon consideration of these key issues facing our islands, I have no choice but to resign and join the Babauta-Torres team as they are the most qualified to lead us during these difficult and challenging times," he said.

Besides the Babauta-Torres team, there are three other gubernatorial teams for the 2014 elections: Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) of the Republican Party; independents Heinz S. Hofschneider and Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), and Edward Deleon Guerrero and Danny Quitugua of the Democratic Party.

DYNASTY

From Page 1

By a 4-0 vote, the Tinian casino commission "returned" Mega Stars' application for a license to own and operate Tinian Dynasty, citing the investor's failure to execute the proper forms.

Inos said he wasn't aware of the Tinian commission's decision until the media brought it up.

The commission's executive director, Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita, said the commission returned the application "to ensure compliance with the Act and regulations, protect the interest of the people of Tinian, and to abide by the duties and responsibilities mandated by the Act."

Mega Stars chief executive officer Cario Hon said they are "dismayed and quite surprised" but nevertheless vowed to work with the commission. They have five business days to resubmit their application to the commission.

He said Mega Stars has already spent more than $40 million so far "to save the Dynasty from going under."

The Tinian casino commission also directed its executive director to look into whether the current licensee—Hong Kong Entertainment Overseas Ltd.—should have its casino license "suspended or revoked for failure to comply with the Act and regulations in connection with a transfer of any interest in the casino without the approval and consent of the commission."

CW

From Page 1

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who just got back from Washington, D.C., separately said yesterday there's no update from Perez's office on the CNMI's request to extend the CW program by five years or up to 2019.

"I think all we're waiting for is the announcement of a decision that I said has been made; that's what I have been told," Sablan said in an interview at the Memorial Day ceremony at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Inos wrote a May 13 letter to Perez, reiterating his request for the U.S. Labor secretary to extend the CW program. In his letter, Inos said the potential adverse effects of zeroing-out the CNMI's nonresident worker program at the end of this year will "devastate immediate and future economic and business growth in the CNMI."

As of yesterday, the CNMI government has not received a letter from Perez's office acknowledging the receipt of the governor's letter.

Sablan said his office "made sure the letter got through."

Inos said the CNMI has been in a wait-and-see mode for quite some time, still unsure whether the Commonwealth would still have immediate access to some 10,000 foreign workers after Dec. 31, 2014.

"I want to see if I can go through the Interagency folks at the White House to see if we can get any help. I'm not going to complain. I'm just going to ask for assistance," he said, adding that the request for assistance would be through a letter, and not a visit to Washington, D.C.

The governor was referring to the Interagency Group on Insular Areas, with the Interior secretary and the White House director of Intergovernmental Affairs as co-chairs.

The IGIA improves coordination of federal policy in the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

When asked whether he would consider writing directly to President Barack Obama, Inos said he would like to go through the IGIA first.

"It will reach the president's attention," Inos added.

When asked whether at this point the CNMI should hope for the best or prepare for the worst, Inos said "both."

"Everyone's affected—the employees, the community. If businesses start shutting down, you're talking about eliminating or otherwise reducing services to the community so everyone would be affected," he said, if the CW program is not extended.

The CNMI is trying to train and hire as many individuals as possible from the U.S. worker pool to replace foreign workers, but the number of available and qualified U.S. workers is still limited.

Inos said the CNMI continues to also employ those from the Freely Associated States or the Federated States of Micronesia.

"We consider them a pool of available workers but it's going to take a lot of training. They would be considered the fallback worker pool," he said, should foreign workers, mostly from the Philippines, are sent home after 2014.

Inos said he will be discussing the CW extension request with Sablan once again.

In his letter to Perez two weeks ago, Inos said the need to extend the CW program is especially critical at a time when plans are now underway to build 2,600 new hotel rooms—the first major projects initiated on the islands "in over a decade" that the governor hopes would "signal a turning point" for the local economy.

If and when Perez announces a decision by the July 4 deadline, that would only be five months away from the end of the CW program on Dec. 31.

Sablan, along with Inos, has been pressing U.S. Labor to extend the CW program and make that decision public ahead of the July 4 deadline. Sablan also introduced omnibus territorial bills and a standalone bill to extend the CW program as option, in case U.S. Labor does not extend it administratively.

The governor pointed out that such a negative result on the economy would be in "clear violation" of the Congressional Intent of Section 701 (a) (1) (A) of U.S. Public Law 110-229, which calls for the "orderly phasing-out of the nonresident contract worker program of the Commonwealth."

TUITION

From Page 1

tion on the tuition hike proposal will be on hold.

The proposed tuition hike is at the fiscal committee level for now.

NMC is asking for a budget of $7.9 million for fiscal year 2015—some $3.1 million higher than what it is getting now, $4.6 million.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that if the budget level remains the same, or if NMC gets an amount lower than the nearly $8 million it is asking for, this will force the college to turn to its students.

"Right now, we need $8 million, otherwise we will be cutting programs and services, which also means eliminating people. We would not be in this situation if we were receiving the average of what other states receive for their higher education. This is why we're always pushing the Legislature to look at the national data to come up with a best budget decision for NMC," she said.

Or, because the budget is limited for higher education, "maybe we can significantly lower the number of enrollees at NMC or put a cap on the enrollment, which is not fair to our students."

By how much will the tuition rate go up? "Whatever is the difference [in the budget], that's the amount we're going to raise in our tuition," Hart said.

For example, if the Legislature approves $5 million for NMC this new fiscal year, the difference of $3 million will be collected from tuition and fees.

"[This will happen] because the state has not been fulfilling its responsibility. So tuition rate will depend on how much we will get for our budget," she said.

Besides looking at the national data, the Legislature must also use "performance-based funding" in allocating budget for agencies, Hart said. She cited the significant progress NMC made reaffirming its accreditation, which justifies the progress it has made over the years.

She revealed that at the national level, states provide 10.5 percent of the state's budget to higher education. In Guam, its higher education is believed to be receiving close to that percentage compared to NMC, which is usually budgeted at a significantly lower amount.

Tough call

Board of Regents chair Rabauliman described as "a tough call" any decision the board will make in coming months.

"Because we're looking at certain long-term plans [in our budget submission], it's going to be a tough call for the board. Once we find out exactly how much we're getting, then we will have to revisit and go back to the drawing board which of these long-term plans we can sustain and continue to pursue and which one will be put on the side," he said.

He said, though, that the board is "very adamant" in pursuing long-term plans such as the facilities master plan for the college.

Salary hike

Included in NMC's proposed $7.9 million budget for fiscal year 2015 is s much-awaited increase in the salaries of college personnel. If approved, this will bring NMC salaries to within 85 percent of the average salary of peer institutions. The projected impact of this salary adjustment is about $886,000, of which $200,000 is solely for faculty members.

Hart said that NMC last adjusted personnel salaries in the 1990s. The disparity and low wages offered to employees have been blamed for the high turnover rates in both management and administrative positions.

"One major expectation for NMC is to be sustainable. It's a major accreditation requirement. We've got to maintain our people. We've have no salary increases since 1990s and we can't do that anymore. NMC needs to pay its people a fair and competitive wage," she said.

Hart emphasized that there's probably no better place to put resources than in higher education because of the future impact on the workforce.

"How does the government expect NMC to step up to the plate and handle all this required areas for employment of educated workforce if we're not getting even half of what other states are receiving?"

Kim says 4 jurors did not lie during jury selection

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Businesswoman Jung Ja Kim has asked the federal court to consider holding an evidentiary hearing to evaluate attorney Ramon K. Quichocho's claims that at least four jurors lied during jury selection.

Kim, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, also asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny Quichocho's renewed motion for judgment of acquittal.

Thompson said Kim believes the jurors did not lie or alternatively, that their relationship to Quichocho's witnesses did not bias them as jurors.

Kim brought up the arguments in her opposition to Quichocho's motion for a judgment of acquittal or for a new trial.

Thompson said that Quichocho, his wife, Frances, his law firm, and their company Karissa LLC have offered nothing to suggest that the court should reconsider its previous denial of judgment. Thompson said Kim believes that there was sufficient evidence to support the jury's findings of money laundering, wire fraud, and racketeering.

"The defendants have offered no substantive argument as to why the evidence was insufficient. There is no reason for the court to disturb the jury verdict," he said.

Thompson said the court should also deny Quichocho's motion for a new trial.

» Kim suggests evidentiary hearing to evaluate Quichocho's claim of juror misconduct

Quichocho and co-defendants, through counsel Michael Dotts, have asked the court to issue a judgment that favors them, despite the guilty verdict handed down by the jury.

Quichocho and Dotts said Kim failed to present any evidence of money laundering or wire fraud. Furthermore, Kim failed to show a pattern of racketeering activity, Quichocho and Dotts said.

In the alternative, the Quichochos asked the court for a new trial based on juror misconduct. The two lawyers said a new trial is warranted because at least four of the jurors did not disclose during voir dire that he/she had known at least two of their witnesses.

Through voir dire an attorney can challenge a prospective juror for cause if that person says or otherwise expresses bias against the lawyer's case.

In Kim's opposition, Thompson said the court read a list of all the witnesses to the jurors and the judge then asked the prospective jurors whether they "knew" any of the prospective witnesses. Thompson said each of the four jurors challenged in the defendants' motion remained silent during the court's question.

Based on these facts, Thompson said, the defendants assert that "there is no question that the jurors in question were dishonest" because they did not disclose they knew the defendants' witnesses.

Without citing a single example, Thompson said, the defendants contend that if the jurors had stated that they "knew" the defendants' witnesses, this knowledge would have been enough to have each juror stricken for cause.

Thompson pointed out that this assertion is incorrect. Even if the jurors had responded that they "knew" the defendants' expert witnesses, the defendants would not have been automatically entitled to strike these jurors for cause, he said.

He cited a Ninth Circuit decision that states: "The central inquiry in determining a juror should be removed for cause is whether that juror holds a particular belief or opinion that will 'prevent or substantially impair' the performance of his duties as a juror in accordance with his instructions and his oath."

Thompson said the court may hold a post-trial evidentiary hearing to resolve any claims questions of juror misconduct.

"If the court believes that there is a basis for the defendants' claims of juror misconduct, Ms. Kim asks that the court resolve all defense claims or juror misconduct at a hearing at which the defendants are free to participate," he said.

The jury trial in Kim's racketeering lawsuit against Quichocho, his wife, and his law firm lasted almost two months.

The nine jurors reached a unanimous verdict in March, holding the defendants liable to pay $2.4 million in damages to Kim.

The jury, however, found Kim liable to pay Quichocho and his law firm $48,221.67 in legal fees.

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Across 13 Fishermen, near Century Insurance Bldg.

Ex-cop Richards admits to using 'ice' once again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Florencio Q. Richards, a former police officer on federal probation after serving a 24-month prison sentence for distributing methamphetamine or "ice," admitted to using "ice" again.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday that Richards admitted that he used "ice" on April 28, 2014, and on May 10, 2014.

Due to the violations, Arriola recommended that Richards be placed on home detention for three months. Richards is to be restricted to his house at all times except for employment, education, religious services, medical substance or mental health treatment, court appearances, or other activities approved in advance by a probation officer.

Richards is currently on substance abuse treatment and testing.

Arriola said that Richards, while undergoing random drug testing on April 29, 2014, admitted that he had used "ice" the day before. According to Richards, he was cleaning out his garage when he found an old glass pipe that contained "ice" residue.

On May 12, 2014, Richards reported to the U.S. Probation Office for another noncompliance meeting after the latter received information from the treatment center that Richards failed to appear for a counseling session on May 9, 2014, a make-up session on May 10, 2014, and a random drug test on May 11, 2014.

Arriola said that Richards admitted using "ice" again on May 10, 2014.

On May 14, 2014, Arriola said, Richards returned to the U.S. Probation Office with his uncle, who when briefed about his nephew's situation, agreed to accept him into his house and help monitor him.

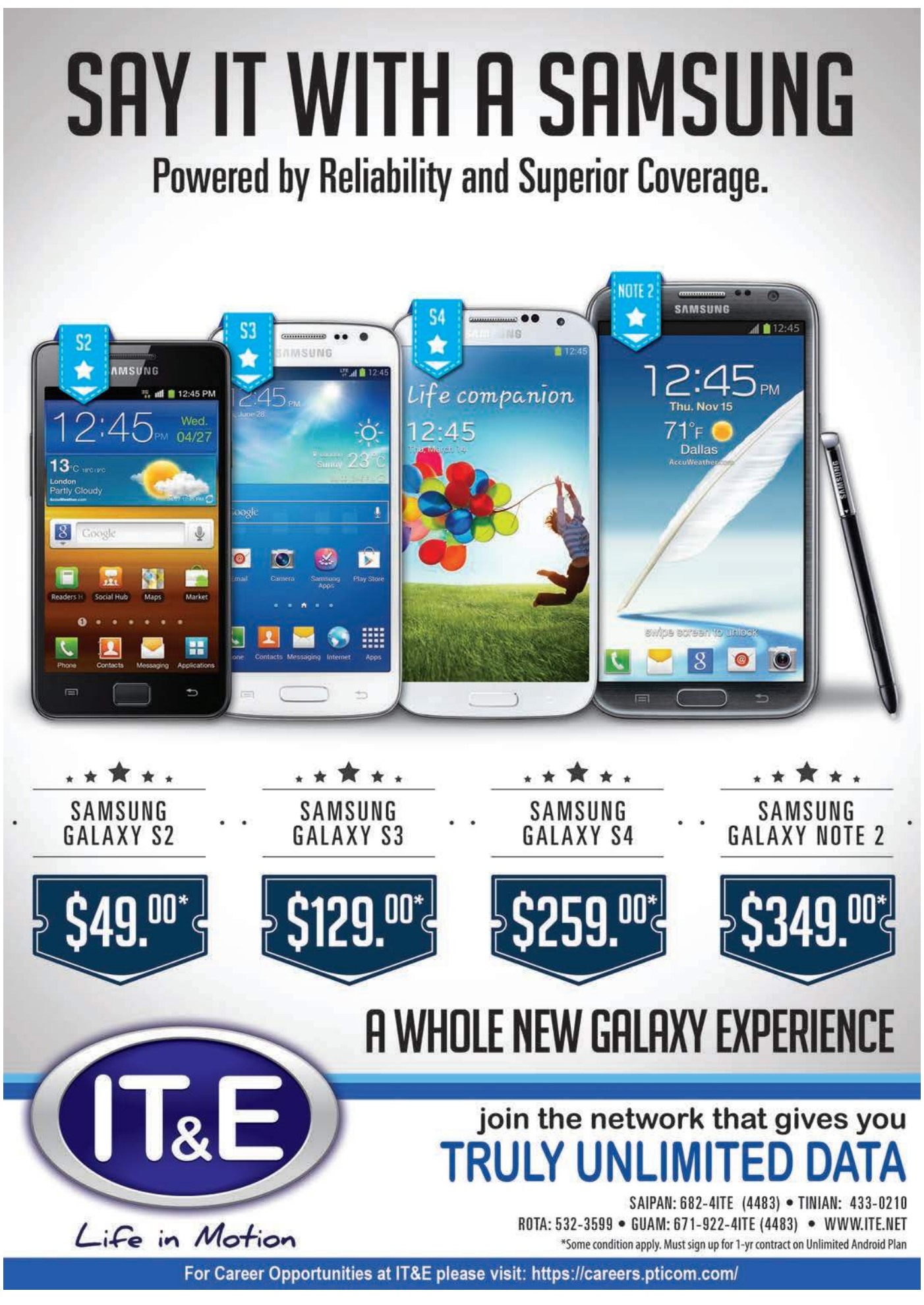
It was only on Jan. 30, when Judge Manglona revoked Richards' supervised release and sent him to three months in prison with credit for time served for using "ice" again.

Manglona told him she hopes to see him return as a productive member of the community.

"You should get busy doing positive things," the judge said.

Richards has been on three years of supervised probation since Feb. 20, 2013, after he served a 12-month prison term for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice," distribution of "ice," and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

In August 2011, the federal court imposed a 24-month prison term on Richards for distributing "ice" while he was still an active officer.



IN WRONGFUL DEATH LAWSUIT OVER MANAGAHA DROWNING

'Tasi Tour's life-guarding duty only at designated swim zone'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc. has life-guarding responsibility for only one area of Managaha Island—the designated swim zone.

Tasi Tours, through counsel Rexford C. Kosack, said its concession agreement with the CNMI government sets the company's limited rights on Managaha. Kosack said the agreement does not give Tasi Tours any management authority or control over the island.

"It does not give Tasi Tours life-guarding responsibility for the island's beaches. Instead, it gives Tasi Tours life-guarding responsibility for only one area—the designated swim zone," Kosack pointed out.

The lawyer explained Tasi Tours' responsibility in the company's motion to dismiss a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Xiao Ting Wang, the father of a female Chinese tourist who drowned while snorkeling in waters off Managaha in 2012.

Wang, 65, as personal representative of his daughter, Dao Wang, is suing Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc. and Man Bao Corp., which owns Win Tour.

Xiao Wang, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold the defendants liable to pay him unspecified damages.

Fitzgerald said Tasi Tours, which has had exclusive management and control of Managaha Island since 1989, provides life-guarding service to less than 1 percent of the breach area; failed to provide life-guarding services to the most popular and best area for snorkeling; failed to prepare and implement an effective action plan to deal with rescue and resuscitate drowning victims; and failed to use the Red Cross defibrillator and supplemental oxygen system.

According to Fitzgerald in the complaint, Win Tour failed to ascertain Dao's ability to safely use a snorkel; failed to confirm that Dao was capable of snorkeling safely; and failed to instruct Dao in the proper use of a snorkel.

In a motion to dismiss filed on Thursday, Kosack addressed only the first type of claim—that Tasi Tours allegedly negligently failed to provide life-guarding services at a beach where Dao was snorkeling.

Kosack said that based on the concession agreement, Tasi Tours may not decide where to place its lifeguards. He said there can be no liability for Tasi Tours not assigning lifeguards to another beach when it has no duty to lifeguard that other beach.

Kosack said Tasi Tours performed its duty by placing a lifeguard at the designated swimming area.

In addition, Kosack asked the court to strike the allegations about Tasi Tours having the backing of JTB, the "largest travel agency in Japan and one of the largest travel agencies in the world."

These allegations, he said, are immaterial and impertinent.

"They are prejudicial to Tasi Tours and they are likely to confuse a jury as to whether the issue is Tasi Tours' conduct or its ability to pay a judgment," Kosack said.

Fitzgerald stated in the complaint that in the early part of 2012, Dao, 33, and her friend decided to purchase a snorkeling tour to Managaha from Win Tour. The two women departed Saipan by boat on April 16, 2012, and arrived at Managaha.

Dao and three other Win customers went into the water at the place where they were told it was safe to snorkel.

While Dao was snorkeling, water entered her snorkel and flowed into her mouth.

Fitzgerald said the other three, after snorkeling for only five minutes, decided to return to shore and later saw Dao face down in the water, almost on the shore.

The group immediately turned Dao over and called for help.

Fitzgerald said lifeguards responded and performed CPR, but did not use a defibrillator or a supplemental oxygen delivery system, even though they were available.

After a period of time, a boat was brought in and Dao was taken to Smiling Cove dock where she was placed in an ambulance and brought to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Dao was pronounced dead at CHC at 2:56pm that same day.

LOCAL WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT

WADACO INC. Saipan, a local manpower company will be recruiting and processing potential local employees to fill various job positions, access certification programs, and other skill trainings. It will be held at WIA facility Capitol Hill, in collaboration with the CNMI Labor Department on May 30 and 31, 2014 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The purpose is to assist and offer job opportunities to the local people, encourage local employment, and community productivity.

For more information please contact Rose at 287-2430 or Herman at 483-5155

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JUNE 2, 2014 at 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

Prevention of Alcohol Sales to Minors for Alcohol Retailers Annual Training Requirement

Class 4 (off Premise) Alcohol Retailers

The NMI Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control (ABTC) in conjunction with Project Brabu is offering FREE training session on preventing alcohol sales to minors at retail establishments. This training will be offered in Korean, Chinese and English to help store owners and manager's best understand the requirements and be able to ask questions. Attendance by owner/manager or key staff is required renewal of your Alcohol Retailers license.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Owners, Managers or Key Staff of any retail business that offers alcohol for sale. Grocery Stores, Mom & Pop, Supermarkets, Convenience Stores and other retail establisments

WHY? Training on the updated NMI ABTC regulations, tips on how to prevent alcohol sales to minors and how to properly ID for alcohol sales in order to prevent the sale of alcohol to minors and preventing violations and the fines associated with selling to underage customers.

All Saipan classes will be held at Pacific Islands Club (PIC) — Napu Room

- Class taught in **English** language: June 3rd 9:00 am – 11:00 am **OR** June 4th 9:00 am – 11:00 am
- Class taught with **Chinese** interpreter: June 3rd 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm **OR** June 3rd 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm
- Class taught with **Korean** interpreter: June 4th 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm **OR** June 4th 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Tinian class will be held at the Department of Commerce Office on Tinian

- June 10th 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm **One Session Only**

Rota class will be held at the Mayor of Rota's Office

- June 17th 9:00 am – 11:00 am **One Session Only**

Call 664-3065 or email deltamgt@pticom.com to make reservations

NMTI bares financials: $44K remains unused

CEO requests reprogramming of leftover funds for full-time faculty, instructional materials

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the interest of public accountability and transparency, the newly hired CEO of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute disclosed that for the current fiscal year, the institution had spent only over $256,000 of its approved budget.

NMTI was approved a $400,000 budget for fiscal year 2014, sourced from the government's collection of contract workers' fees. Of this amount, the fund balance as of May 14 totaled $44,366, which CEO Agnes McPhetres has recommended to be reprogrammed for other purposes.

McPhetres said the "lapsed funds" are necessary to satisfy the institution's other needs such as hiring additional instructors, procuring reference materials and software, renovation of facility, and adjustment of wages for personnel, among other purposes.

NMTI currently has only 10 adjunct instructors. McPhetres recommends the hiring of three full-time instructors for construction and trade, tourism, and auto mechanic. These additional instructional staff are expected to develop their own curriculum of instructions for their programs.

For many years, NMTI had to make do without a library, which McPhetres described as vital to the learning of its students. Software for assimilation of students, she added, must be procured to continue assisting current and future enrollees.

According to McPhetres, the "lapsed funds" in the fiscal year 2014 budget was a result of unoccupied positions earlier identified in the budgeting process.

"We need some reference books to start our library. We need also some software for student assimilation. I do recommend that we purchase them using these lapsed funds for [fiscal year] 2014," said McPhetres.

The CEO has disclosed that NMTI, since its start, had only three personnel, including education director Vic Cepeda. She revealed that wages offered to these employees are significantly low and must be revisited for adjustment using the carryover funds for this year. The $400,000 appropriated for NMTI is good until Sept. 30 this year.

69 students

According to NMTI board chair John Oliver Gonzales, there are a total of 69 registered students for this term. Of that number, only 31 are currently attending classes, 22 are presently employed, while the rest are looking for jobs.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are five specific certificate courses currently offered at the technical school: culinary arts with 21registered students; hotel and restaurant with 12 registered enrollees; power industry with nine registered enrollees; auto technology A with 14; and auto technology B with 13 registered students.

Registration now open for Filipino overseas voters

All citizens of the Philippines who are abroad, at least 18 years old on the day of the elections (May 9, 2016), and who are registered overseas voters, may vote for president, vice president, senators, and party-list representatives.

Those who wish to become registered overseas voters are reminded that the period of registration is from May 6, 2014, to Oct. 31, 2015. Qualified Filipino citizens who are on Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, as well as those who are in Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of the Marshall Islands may register through the Philippine Consulate General in Agana.

Personal appearance is necessary as the voter registration process requires the intake of a person's biometric data. Applicants should present proof of Philippine citizenship, such as a valid Philippine passport or NSO-issued certificate of birth.

Those unable to personally appear at the Philippine Consulate General in Agana may also register as an overseas voter during forthcoming consular missions, the schedules of which will be announced through its Facebook account.

Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin urged those who recently completed the dual citizenship process to register and vote.

"We especially encourage those who have recently reacquired Philippine citizenship to exercise their right to vote and help select the next set of national leaders who possess the right mix of character and competence to sustain the progress and inclusive growth we have seen under the leadership of President Benigno S. Aquino III," Mangibin said.

For more details, contact the Philippine Consulate General in Agana at telephone number (671) 646-4620 or by email at pcgagana@gmail.com. ***(PCG)***

Saipan's next new pharmacists

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ted Parker, Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center's co-owner and general manager, is flanked by Patsylynn Jetley, left, and Alina Ishikawa, right.

This fall, two more of Brabu Pharmacy's staff will be pursuing careers in Pharmacy.

Patsy Jetley will be leaving island on July 4 to attend the University of Colorado's Pharmacy Program, which is ranked 24th in the nation.

"I feel like this is going to be my own independence day, but at the same time I think I am going to cry when I actually get on the plane to leave," Jetley said.

Jetley is a graduate of Kagman High School. She began work as a part-time cashier at Brabu Pharmacy last October while taking classes at NMC.

"She was only with us a short time before she began demonstrating an aptitude for pharmacy. She mastered several skills very quickly with maturity and an understated sense of humor," said Ted Parker, Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center's co-owner and general manager. "Patsy has an acute intelligence that she sometimes tries to hide. It will serve her well in college. We're really going to miss her."

Jetley plans to return to the CNMI to work after earning her doctorate in Pharmacy.

Brabu Pharmacy will also be saying goodbye to Alina Ishikawa, who began as a volunteer nearly three years ago at the young age of 14. Ishikawa, an avid tennis player and recurrent science fair and Mock Trial winner, will be graduating from Marianas Baptist Academy this year.

"Alina has been preparing for college for some time. It was no surprise to see her be accepted nearly everywhere she applied," said Parker, "I was only half joking when I told her to choose U-Dub," (sic) the University of Washington; Parker's alma mater.

However, to "U-Dub's" loss, Ishikawa opted to enroll in Northeastern University's Pharmacy Program. She will begin her studies in Boston this August.

"It was a hard decision, but I was glad that my AP classes allowed me to get an early start in their Pharmacy school," said Ishikawa. This will allow her to graduate with both a master and doctorate degree within just six years.

"It is still quite a commitment," said Parker, noting that most pharmacy programs now require a doctorate degree. "PharmD" programs can take up to eight years to complete. However, both the University of Colorado and Northeastern University, which rank in the top 40 Pharmacy Schools, have accelerated six-year programs.

"We firmly believe in encouraging staff to keep learning and striving for better opportunities," said Parker. "Both my wife and I get very attached to these young people. It's hard to let them go, but we couldn't be prouder of both Patsy and Alina…even if they aren't 'Huskies.'"

"I hate *to see* them go, and yet I love *to let* them go," said Parker, "…as long as they study hard, grow, and of course, hopefully come back to us. Our islands need more homegrown medical professionals."

Anyone interested in learning more about Brabu Pharmacy's commitment to our community, internship training programs, or just curious about retail or pharmacy work, are invited to stop by Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center any time Monday through Friday, from 9am to 6pm, or Saturdays, from 9am to 1pm, or call 233-(AMOT) 2668. ***(Brabu)***

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff,	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0135**
-v-	:	
The Estate of EFRAIN CEPEDA TUDELA, Deceased; ANTONIA MANIBUSAN TUDELA, MICHAEL N. TAKAI; and EVELYN M. TAKAI, Defendants.	:	

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 28, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Tract 22542-2 (part of Tract 22542(Rem) which was part of original Tract 22542, A.H. 174), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 2,083 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 2018/79, the original of which was registered May 3, 1979, as Document no. 8191, at the Land Registry, Saipan; and

Lot 059 H 01, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,179 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 059H00, dated April 9, 1996, the original of which was recorded on April 11, 1996, as Document no. 96-0877, at the Office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 6, 2014, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 30th day of April, 2014:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a special meeting on **Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.** at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of the Minutes – May 6, 2014 Meeting
- E. Correspondence

II. MANAGEMENT REPORTS
- A. Executive Director
- B. Chief Financial Officer
- C. Legal Counsel

III. BOARD REPORTS
- A. Status Report - Personnel Committee
- B. Status Report - Customer Service Committee

IV. CONTRACT REVIEWS

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- A. Request Legislation to Exempt Diesel Fuel Oil from the Beautification Tax
- B. Discussion on PL 17-68

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS*

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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Fisher: Fallen heroes guaranteed 'better hope, life'

PHOTOS by THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Members of the E. Company, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment &302nd Quartermaster Company 9th MSC, U.S Army Reserve conduct the 21-gun salute.

Keynote Speaker Maj. Neal V. Fisher II.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos delivers the welcoming remarks yesterday at the Veterans Cemetery. Behind him is press secretary Angel Demapan.

CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office director Vicente Camacho delivers his remarks.

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan resident Linda T. Cabrera was brought to tears by yesterday's Memorial Day Ceremony. "It means so much to our family because of the recent passing of our mother and the service of our father," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Cabrera, the daughter of fallen Scout Marine Gregorio Cabrera, 81, was joined by dozens of politicians, judges, military officials, and members of the community yesterday at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi to commemorate Memorial Day.

Families and friends participated in the memorial tribute and flower presentation that paid homage to their loved ones.

Cabrera's father, who died of natural causes in 2006, was deployed on his first mission before she was even born. The misty-eyed daughter said that Monday's ceremony was a way to "honor the service members who saved us." Her mother, Escolastica, was also laid to rest eight months ago.

She recalled the war stories her father used to tell her. "He would always tell me about how he served as a Scout marine. After World War II, he was one of many who were selected to join the military forces to clean up the remnants of the war and seek possible Japanese militants still hiding in the jungles."

Cabrera's story was one of many at the Memorial Day Service.

According to CNMI Veterans Affairs Office director Vicente Camacho, military families, especially in the past 13 years, have faced the uncertainty of everyday life when their loved ones are deployed.

"It seems like a never-ending cycle of deployment as recent as the deployment of the Guam National Guard, who lost two soldiers," he said. "Families of these fallen heroes leave behind families to fend for themselves. Wives have to take the role as head of the household, wives or husbands become single parents raising children."

The families, he said, are deprived of the normal family setting and the life they deserve.

"We as a society need to realize that our fallen soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice," he added.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos expressed similar sentiments.

"This is a special feeling because we are about to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian this year," he said in his welcoming address. "Today brings with it a plethora of emotion. For some it brings a feeling of sorrow, thinking of loved ones who are no longer with us. For some,

Members of the Pacific Winds Concert Band provide music at yesterday's Memorial Day Ceremony in Marpi.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and Maj. Neal V. Fisher II stand at attention after laying the ceremonial wreath at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Members of the community look at the graves of over 50 fallen military heroes at Monday's Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

this day, are still mourning. For other it brings a sense of pride. Pride knowing that when the going gets tough, there are people who stood in the face of adversity and who are brave enough to defend them, knowing the dangers that await them."

Monday's event also featured keynote speaker Maj. Neal V. Fisher II.

Fisher, Marine Corps Activity Guam Public Affairs Officer, said the fallen heroes' sacrifice "guaranteed a better hope and life for all of us."

"We honor their ultimate commitment to duty, honor, and country. The service members we honor today come from all walks of life, but they share several fundamental qualities. They possess courage, pride, determination, selflessness, dedication to duty, and integrity," he added.

Fisher said that many of the fallen did not ask to leave their homes to fight in distant battlefields.

"They did not go to war because they love fighting, they were called to be part of something bigger than themselves. They were ordinary people who responded in extraordinary ways. They rose to the nations call because they want to protect the nations, who have given them, who have given us, so much."

Over 50 fallen heroes' graves were graced with flowers and lit by candles in tribute of their service. Distinguished guests and military and veteran service members laid a ceremonial wreath in front of the Veterans Ceremony, following a 21-gun salute with Taps resonating in the background.

The Marianas High School chorus, Saipan Southern High School JRTOC cadets, and Saipan Pacific Winds Concert band assisted with music and the posting of colors.

Family members of fallen soldiers place flowers and lighted candles on the graves of their loved ones.

Family members of fallen soldiers place flowers and light candles on the graves of their loved ones.

The Marianas High School Chorus leads the audience in singing the National and CNMI Anthems.

An American flag, plumeria flowers, and a lit candle cover the grave of a fallen soldier at the Marpi Veterans Cemetery.

Public officials, judges, and service members pose for a photo after the laying of the wreath.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

Dear graduates, life happens

By ANN MCFEATTERS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—Congratulations, college graduates of 2014. Now it gets weirder, harder and scarier but also more satisfying and fun.

It is to be hoped you got a few laughs from your celebrity commencement speaker. Who can top Secretary of State John Kerry praising the diversity of Yale University, with 61 countries and many ethnicities represented in the senior class? "Today you are graduating as the most diverse class in Yale's long history. Or as they call it in the NBA, Donald Sterling's worst nightmare," Kerry said, referring to the Los Angeles Clippers' owner embattled over racist remarks.

Kerry also told the graduates not to be discouraged about the dysfunction in Washington. "It's hopelessness that says that our best days are behind us. I couldn't disagree more."

Then there was Jill Abramson, newly fired as the first female executive editor of *The New York Times*. She told the 2014 class at Wake Forest University to be resilient, admitting she is scared and feels the "sting of losing" but is also excited about what comes next.

This is the year of diversity, equality and humanity. But, as always, there are the standard pieces of advice we hear year after year that continue to make sense. There's a reason clichés endure.

So after the obligatory jokes, most commencement speakers invariably dip into the same pool for their advice.

■ The hundred thousand or two hundred thousand dollars you, your parents and lenders forked over for your education may make you a lot of money over your lifetime. But right now, it is not worth much.

Your starter job is going to be tedious, but if you treat it right it will get you started right. It will teach you to show up on time ready to work. It may teach you to be nice. How great it would be if people acted with kindness to all, even those they hate. Your first real job should teach you to go above and beyond what is expected and to do your best at every task.

■ Get some joy out of every day. This is the universal piece of advice for every graduation audience—you only live once. Always have something to look forward to each day. Each month. Each year.

■ The No. 1 piece of advice to new graduates? Never give up. Dream big. Change the world. Fight evil. Learn from your mistakes. Don't settle. Stay fit. Pay your taxes.

■ Appreciate those who help you but own your own success, something far too many are afraid to do. Something to look backward to with pride—be proud of what you have accomplished and what you will accomplish tomorrow,

■ Save your money. Hard to do, not just for someone getting a

See GRADUATES on Next Page

2031

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Colleagues ask what the 2031 number is in my email address, and I give them a precise answer: Dec. 15, 2031, is the terminus to my existence. I shall be over 86 years on that day, and that is the length of my "one moment in time" covenant I parceled out into five phases of 17 years each. That's actually 85 years, which gives me the luxury of a one-year *mas o menos* to "play" with.

This came powerfully to me again this week, as it did when I survived a car accident on the day MLK Jr. was assassinated and I was "born again" in a literal and secular sense. One of my friends in the Bay area of San Francisco upped-and-away on Wednesday to attend her uncle's funeral in Tabango, Leyte, in the Philippines, and I went along in spirit.

I was at her uncle's farm five years ago, advised him on his property that he wanted kept whole to sustain the robust secondary forest growth in the ranch. He sent five children to college on his farm's output, five well-off professionals now off-country, none willing to take over or inherit the land and the task to preserve it.

Our metaphors on death vary, though the experience is common to all. My friend and her family are devoted members of a tradition that uses the metaphor of a two-story universe, and the radical split between body and soul, so the "crossing over" to the other side is an appropriate metaphor for them. Add the picture of the Nazarene shepherd cuddling a lamb on the crook of his arm, and the picture powerfully allays fears that accompany the sentiments of death.

I am reminded of a Hindu saying that made me understand the sanctity of the Ganges. It says, "When you die, you do not cross over to the other side of the river; you become the river." Om! Will have to tell my friend that.

At the same time last week, an acquaintance whose daughter goes to school southwest off Shanghai in Wuhan, Hubei ("to be away from Mama," she says), had her father succumb to old age after a seven-month hospital bout. I know the family a bit because my acquaintance brought her daughter when on vacation to the university so she could practice her oral English with this teacher.

This mother dabbles in real estate and made a little fortune funding construction work on a five/six 30-day loan basis (illegal in China as it is in the Philippines where I learned of the loan practice, also discovered it to be widely used on Saipan—"I give you five, you give me back six, in 30 days"). When not paid, she got an apartment unit as payment; she developed ulcer and grey hair at 49 as a result. She tried very hard to prove herself; she did not attend college and she married a staid but solid government worker who did. He lives his unhurried and secured life, while she anxiously bites her fingernails.

She hardly spoke English when I first met her but I knew she studied a lot of English in post-Mao's curriculum, mostly on reading and writing with nary a sound on speaking. I shared methods that she could do to practice her English, to speak simply of what she saw, heard, smelled, tasted, and touched. I suggested that she goes around her house pointing to things like, "This is the door; that is a curtain," etc. I also asked her to know the English names of the parts of her body, e.g., "This is my hand. These are my ears," etc., and most importantly, I suggested that she forgets "face" so she can speak English without worrying about "others may say or think."

In her grief, she managed to say: "Someone, they pick up me five o'clock morning, go my mother house, make prepare for funeral." I quietly admired the effort, though given the occasion, I will have to wait another time to tell her so.

I am neither close to the family (not even sure the granddaughter came home from the university since school is still in session) nor invited to participate in the "celebration of a completed life" (my description) but I know enough of what will transpire. In the old dispensation, a rich family hired a professional wailer; it was not proper to emote in public. This time, China has swung to the other extreme. Folks express feelings at the slightest trigger so I expect to have a lot of pent-up feelings fluidly cried out and flowing at her father's funeral!

"The completed life" is my metaphor for my dying. Raised in the Christian tradition, I heard the Prophets struggle with whether Reality (capitalized for emphasis, not to suggest a special reality), the way-life-is, (YHWH was their term), was one. Or, as some claimed, two: one good and the other evil. They decided on one, and considered themselves the chosen people with the single mission to act out in rites and declare in rituals their faith, their assurance, and their knowledge that the way-life-is brooks no other.

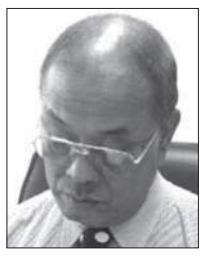
Christians carried this understanding beyond the chosen people, to the chosen one, who called out spirited ones, individuals free to take their singular existence, and inject it into the annals of human history. The Leyte gentleman farmer and my acquaintance's father are done with their ingesting. Have you decided how long your ingesting is going to be? Mine ends in 2031.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Disision pot direchu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



Ikotten federat ha disidi na i kehante as John Davis ti siña machoma` dirichoña man-bota pat madiskrimina gi mapega na asuntu gi balotu para disposision publiku.

Ayu na disision pot direchon man-bota tat kumu Attikulu Dose. I jues ha usa haf` gaige gi konstitusion iya America pot direchon sudadanu.

Buenu! Ha atisa este kuestion ginen man-natibu: Hafa na para u saunau man-bota gi asuntun tanu` lau ti siña dumueñon tanu` guine? Yangin pot parehu direchu, hafa na America ha sedi Indian gumu`ot tanu` niha `nai mañega otru rasan tautau gumaitanu`?

Yangin pot direchon sudadanu, haf` na entut na modun representasion guaha gi Kongresson iya America lau todu man-parehu sudadanu? Haf` na ti masede tautau ni mangaige Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Virgin Islands, Guam yan Marianas mañaunau gi botasion presidenten America lau parehu sudadanu?

Ti hana` matmanyu` finaisen natibu gi asuntu siha pot mana` ke`yau i lai ya ti parehu direchon sudadanu. I man-ginen lagu parehu direchu. I natibu guine sumen fatsu. Yangin ti balansia i para todu, pues naturatmente na u guaha disniskontentu gi halom natibu.

Ha pañgon i tanu` ayu na disision. Seguruyu` na siempre maga`an i natibu ya u dimanda direchoña gi solu guiya siña dumispone.

Tanu` gi matan natibu

Para i tautau hiyuñg, i tanu` matrata kumu kosas ni libianu mabenden ñaihon piot ya para u muebague` para otru lugat.

Gi natibu, i tanu` `nai gaige gima`ña (gima` familia) `nai dumañkulu estake echu tautau. Kontodu gualu` familia ni sessu mafatoigue `nai ha soda` haf` sustansian tradision tanu`. Likidu lugat kumu plaset mantension yan linala` familia. Este na tanu` kulan nanan familia ni gumuaddia yan prumutohe finapos todu.

Ni achog u fan hanau i mañaina-ta, mapega gi santatte tanu` para usun famaguon niha. Tatnai huhuñgog masañgan fatsu na intension para umabende i solu ma`ug na kosas familia. Todu i tiempu sumaga kumu propiadat familia para i manatatte. Estague` likidu na tradision natibu gi presetbasion yan proteksion tanu` guine.

Guaha chumansa asuntun ekonomia. Lau `nai bo`bu` salape guine gi mediu ochenta siha na sakan gaige ha` i Attikulu Dose. Ti man-estotba. Bula na tanu` praibet yan publiku man-ma-atkila. Pues anog na ti materiat atgumentun ekonomia.

Mauleg lokue` ta hahassu disposision tanu` familia primera pot i manatatte. Pot ihemplo, yangin para unna` ma-atkila 55 años na tiempu tano`mu, pues man-amku` i famaguon antes de u siña kumusecha usun tanu` familia. Dispues, mauleg in` atan ya u guaha rinikonosen kontrata kada siñko años.

Yangin mauleg kinalamten bisnes i man-atkikila, pues umahatsa dididi` i atkilon. Este na modun kontrata nina`e lokue` i manatatte pudet bumenefisia atkilon tanu` niha. Debi u guaha este na patte gi kontratan atkilon.

Man-malañgu

Mauleg na numeron tautau-ta mangaige dos hospitat giya Filipinas pot seriosu siha na probleman hinemlu`. Deste asunutn korason, todu klasen kanset, yan didog na chetnot siha finañagun daibites umaminasa seriosamente i mana` fan hanau. Malañgu mampos i natibu.

I kuestion: Manu `nai gaige haleña probleman korason gi natibu? Hafa pumupunu` reñihion tautau-ta? Haf` na ensegidas megai manninanaye` todu klasen kanset? Kanset pachot lau ti chichipa ‘sino tai bisiu usun mama` tat kumu pugua, pupulu, afog yan amaska.

Debi i manehanten hospitat u atan ensegidas este siha na chetnot ya una`guaha estudiu para ta ketuñgu` hafa fumañañagu este siha na chetnot gi tautau-ta.

Gigon klaru establisau i pisu `sino` hale` problema, debi u tinatiye programan publiku para u infotma todu hafa presisu na uma-adahe piot gi famaguon.

Haf` na guaha na tautau-ta ensegidas pininu` ni probleman korason? Guaha chumansa pot katnen yan mantikan ga`ga` tat kumu guaka. Lau este na neñkanu` tiha fofotma mantika ni madipotsita gi halom gugat korason. Lamayot patte gaige gi asukat regulat yan asukat hinegsa`, pan yan pastre, agu`on haya yan gimen manmames siha.

Yangin hasan mañochu katnen guaka pot guaguan, ke ya hafa na megai man-tinatatme chetnot korason? Hu suspepecha na gaige lamayot problemata gi todu klasen asukat yan inipus na usun asiga. I unu para mama` mantika, i otru fotte gi muna` te`ug haga`.

Todu pot todu, taya` siña umatan hinemlo` kada unu ke hagu mismu.

■■■

Esta achacha tufai-yu` yan un` hagas mauleg na amiguhu. Ti sisiña esta hu hatsa akague na kanaihu. Pa`gu guiya, chadegña na megai i edot mamokat. Hu sañgane na una` tisugue` sa` man-bonitan infetmera mangaige gi oriya. Ilegña, “Po`lu ya maseha u fan mama` mediku lau sottayu` gi hinanauhu.” Ai, puti magahet chetnot dinalag. Kontodu gupun lalu` cha`otña.

Worried about MERS? Worry about polio instead

By WENDY ORENT
LOS ANGELES TIMES

On May 9, the World Health Organization stopped short of calling Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, a global health emergency. That’s a good thing.

In the 2 1/2 years since it was first identified, MERS has had a case fatality rate of about 30 percent, which sounds alarming. But during that period, there have been only 594 confirmed cases. Moreover, extensive surveillance in Saudi Arabia has shown that many people infected with the virus never showed symptoms, which means the fatality rate is actually far lower.

Still, case numbers have shot up in recent weeks. And the first two infections in the United States were recently reported, both of them in health-care workers who flew in from Saudi Arabia. (A third man reportedly contracted MERS from one of these patients but did not become sick.)

This has brought on the usual spate of pandemic alarm on the part of the news media, along with the repeated insistence that all viruses, everywhere, are only a plane ride away.

That is true, of course. Infected people can always get on a plane and end up in your neighborhood hospital: people with Ebola, SARS or now MERS. But that doesn’t mean you’re in danger or that pandemics of these or other diseases are likely.

One frequent assertion of the alarmists is that dangerous viruses will “mutate to transmissibility,” meaning that organisms will acquire the ability to be transmitted easily from human to human. That actually happens very rarely.

As virologist Vincent Racaniello of Columbia University notes: “MERS has been in the Middle East for some time, at least since the ’90s, and hasn’t spread significantly. In my view, once you find a new virus and determine that it hasn’t spread for a few years, that’s the end; it’s not going anywhere. … I don’t think this virus has even the potential that SARS did.”

And the 2003 outbreak of SARS, he points out, infected only about 8,000 people worldwide, killing 800. That’s a long way short of a true pandemic. As for MERS, “Efficient human transmission isn’t in the cards,” Racaniello says.

In other words, MERS isn’t, and likely never will be, a human-adapted disease. The virus probably began in bats and is now well established in camels. Some cases of human infection have been traced to contact with the ill-tempered, frequently spitting beasts. But camels all over the Middle East are infected; camel meat tested in Egyptian slaughterhouses shows a nearly 100 percent rate of infection. Yet there are no reports of human MERS cases in Egypt.

Racaniello says there is a great deal about the epidemiology of this virus—how it’s actually getting into people—we still don’t understand. Like SARS, though, most cases of human-to-human transmission have been in hospitals, where putting patients on respirators sprays invisible droplets in the air. That kind of artificially aided transmission doesn’t make MERS a human-adapted disease.

But while we’re worrying about MERS, a much older, more insidious virus continues its spread. Poliovirus evolved, long ago, into a purely human-adapted disease, and it’s much better at spreading among us than MERS ever will be. Once pent-up, more or less, in its last redoubts in Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan (though now eradicated—after a long struggle—in India), poliovirus has been moving silently in recent years into much of Africa as well as parts of Asia and the Middle East. A recent acceleration of cases has prompted the WHO to rightly label polio’s spread a global emergency.

Olen Kew, a senior virologist specializing in polio at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, says that the WHO warning, while alarming, shows how far the campaign has come. Years ago, he notes, health professionals simply accepted that polio was part of life. Now, Kew says, any uptick is viewed as unacceptable as the world moves toward eradication. The work has been impeded by civil unrest in Pakistan, Syria and Central Africa, along with murderous attacks on vaccinators in some areas. But Kew insists that the battle against polio is being slowly won.

Still, if Americans who oppose vaccination—believing, apparently, that the risk of a crippling disease is preferable to exposing their children to a dead virus and a needle prick—gain strength, this specialist in human misery could come creeping back into the United States. And that is a risk far worse than a few cases of MERS.

We need to get our priorities straight, as the WHO apparently has done. The threat isn’t MERS, a camel or bat disease that sometimes infects humans. It is instead the real possibility that a truly deadly human disease could regain a strong foothold in the world.

Wendy Orent is the author of Plague: The Mysterious Past and Terrifying Future of the World’s Most Dangerous Disease *and* Ticked: The Battle Over Lyme Disease in the South. *She wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations NMC Nursing Class of 2014!

It was an honor and a privilege to have been part of your wonderful event this last Wednesday evening, May 21, at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

I was so moved by your poise and elegance that I felt like I was at a ball—whatever that’s like. My beautiful wife was also enchanted that she talked about becoming a nurse. The famous quotes you each chose reflected your passion for what you will be doing.

I recall reading a famous quote by somebody I can’t remember anymore that goes “Nurses should be automatic saints.” No doubt, we all know that when we, or those we love, are ailing, that a nurse is there beside them helping and caring.

Florence Nightingale, an English girl in the late 1800’s became a nurse despite her prominent family’s pleading. That was where this Pinning Ceremony first originated for nurses.

This practice has become a source of pride and tradition for nurses throughout the world. It is because of this rich history and total dedication to saving lives that make nurses invaluable to any community, most especially ours. Saipan is a better place for us all because we have 22 more nurses!

To Dominic Hideo, my long-time friend, brother, and recipient of the Leadership Award, that auspicious night, and all his wonderful graduating classmates, my apologies for fumbling a couple of times, but congratulations and God Bless you all!

Thomas Thornburgh
Project specialist
Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

SENATOR

From Page 10

paycheck for the first time with a pile of debt but also for a highly paid CEO. Nonetheless, money gives you options you will need to take chances.

■ When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. (Sugarless, of course.) Everybody has something that weighs them down. Don’t let adversity stop you. There’s always a way to get past an obstacle with enough imagination and determination.

■ Pay it forward. Don’t live in isolation, don’t forget your civil duties to your country and don’t forget the many worse off than you are who need your help, however you can give it.

■ Never stop learning or setting new goals. It’s important. It’s fun. It will keep you going. And try new things—music, ideas, books, experiences, places, food. (But not, speaking from experience, chocolate-covered insects.)

Year to year, whether from the first lady, the president, comedians, musicians, artists, actors, athletes, writers and ordinary people who accomplish great things, the advice on how to have a fulfilling, worthwhile life remains the same. But somehow, every spring, it’s good to hear it all again.

In conclusion, life happens. Don’t sweat the small stuff.

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

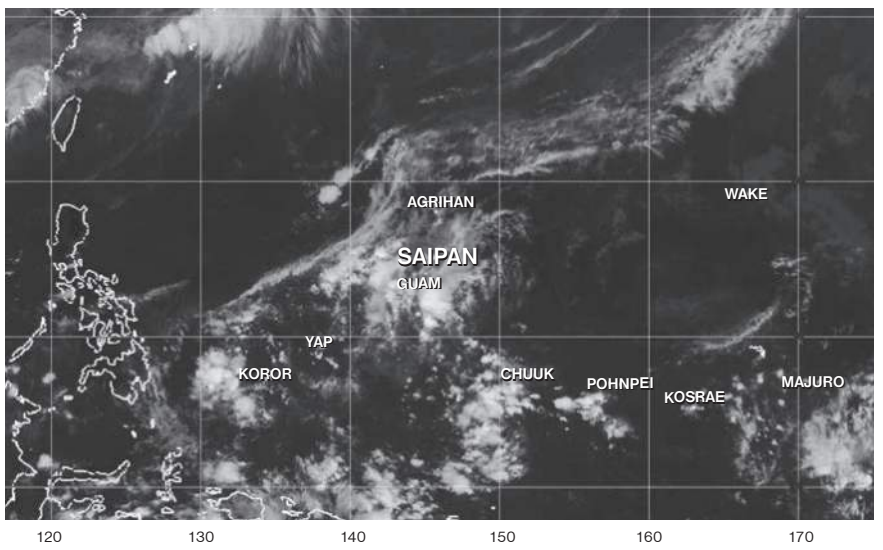
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲57	▼48
Beijing	Sunny	▲100	▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼72
London	Showers	▲61	▼51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲86	▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼49
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼60
Osaka	Sunny	▲84	▼62
Paris	Cloudy	▲67	▼48
Pusan	Sunny	▲75	▼61
Rome	Sunny	▲71	▼57
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲62	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲82	▼55
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼65
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲87	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 26, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from 10N135E to 16N143E. Converging winds east of the trough are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near the Marianas within 130 miles of a line from 15N139E to 13N144E. Similar conditions are present south and east of the Marianas within 80 miles of a line from 10N145E to 14N147E. Another surface trough curves northeastward from 7N130E to 13N137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present across portions of the Republic of Palau between the equator and 12N west of 134E. A trade-wind disturbance is igniting scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest to southwest of Chuuk south of a line from 2N137E to 2N145E to 10N148E to 7N152E. Converging trade winds east of the disturbance are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Chuuk to south of Pohnpei southeast of Chuuk to south of Pohnpei within 60 miles of a line from 7N154E to 4N159E. Converging trade winds are combining with upper-level divergence to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from south of Majuro across Butaritari and Tarawa atolls to the date line south of a line from 5N171E to 7N174E to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:48 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:23 AM	5:21 PM
Wednesday	5:10 AM	6:15 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	7:07 PM
Friday	6:49 AM	7:57 PM
Saturday	7:39 AM	8:45 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:20pm	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Rabbits showcased as winners under "Honorable Mention."

One of the cows that placed second under one of the winning categories.

One boar is showcased on the pathway of the event.

31st Agricultural Fair names three winners

Photos by JAYSON CAMACHO

Community members check out the cows, bulls, boars, and pigs in their cages.

Chickens, roosters, ducks, turkeys, and pigeons were one of biggest livestock showcased at the event.

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three winners topped the 31st Agricultural Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Chelsea Lorenzo topped the 4-H youth category, which had participants competing in the plant division only. In the adult category, Santiago Tudela won the plant division and Antonio Aguon won the animal division.

Judging was done as early as 6am, with the winning animals, vegetables, fruits, and other plants marked with ribbons that identified them as first, second, and third place winners.

Judges for the youth division were Rengesaul Yobech, Ferdinand Ngirmekur, and Joan Flores. Dr. Ross Miller, Aldebert Concepcion, and Margarita Tudela were the judges for the plant division, while Ramon Neskebei, Frank Aldan, and Roman Guerrero judged for the animal division.

Saipan Agricultural Fair organizing committee president Ramon B. Camacho said he is very impressed with the number of contest participants and the people showing up for the event.

"A lot of plants and animals were entered from both different age groups, from the youngest to the oldest, and I am glad that they won cause it shows that they are dedicated in farming and also to those who entered," Camacho said.

Isidoro Cabrera, the organizing committee chairman for rules, said there were so many entrees that they have been judging since early that morning.

"Everybody will probably win, depending on what category you join," he said.

Cabrera said prizes would be awarded to the winners, while consolation prizes will be handed out to those who didn't get any ribbons.

Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios said the CNMI have been seeing an "advancement and diversification" in its agricultural system.

"Today, they will showcase their best products to be evaluated by measures including appearance, taste, smell, size, and quality and I congratulate all the participants in this year's event and encourage the community's participation in future fairs," Palacios said.

Farmers acknowledged

Gov. Eloy S. Inos acknowledged the many farmers in the CNMI that was present during the 31st Agricultural Fair.

He said the event honors those who "bear our crops and who harvest produce and livestock" that families in the CNMI can consume during one of their meals.

"Farming has and always will be a vital part of the life of our people, both now and in the past. The life of a *lancheru* [farmer] is not an easy one," Inos said.

Inos told of how early farmers wake up every morning to feed the animals, check on crops, bring it to market, and then replant again.

"This is an everyday process, but the farmer does it with honor and pride, knowing that with every fruit and vegetable he plants, he'll be helping out a family he probably may never meet," Inos said.

DLNR's Division of Agriculture director Manny A. Tenorio said the annual fair is an important call to the community to recognize the contribution of "this special group of people."

"I join Palacios in extending our most sincere congratulations to all our hardworking farmers, producers, and ranchers for their steadfast and unrelenting effort in holding on to this wonderful tradition of hard work and friendly competition," Tenorio said.

Ross Manglona, director of the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension & Education Service, said the fair is a sign of the "liveliness and capacity of our farmers and ranchers."

"It helps to get the public recognition they more than deserve. After all, these are the people who feed us," Manglona said.

Organizing committee president Camacho said they intend to host the agricultural fair in years to come.

"The success of the Farmers Association would not be possible without our close working partnership with NMC-CREES, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Department of Commerce, and the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan," Camacho said.

Children feed the goats with grass *(sakati)*.

A child offers leaves to one of the showcased goats.

Eucon promotes 43 kindergarten students

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eucon International School promoted 43 kindergarten students last Friday, May 23, at the school's auditorium on Middle Road.

The newly promoted students included nine K3 students, 12 K4 students, and 22 K5 students.

Julienne Bella was presented with the school's President's Award for the K5 level. Also at the K5 level, Victor Nash Santos received the Dean's List Award, while Marc Tengco was honored with the Principal's Award.

Outstanding awards for K5 were presented to Heleyna Dela Santa, Lvinna Palma, Faith Bautista, Mariana Angeles, and Mikaehla Mendoza. For K4, the awardees were Jessica Calma, Dwayne Tabhan, Arielle Matutino, and Krislaine Cabanas. For K3, the recipients were Christina Napitan and Victor Santos.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Eucon International School students perform a song during commencement exercises on Friday, May 23, at the school's auditorium on Middle Road.

Academic Excellence Awards were also given to Elkee Babauta (K3), and Nathan Guy and Misako Ota (both K4).

Eucon also acknowledged every student with different awards in many categories.

The commencement included a choral reading of *The Ant and the Grasshopper*, a video show of the students and their teachers, a *Noah's Ark* play by K5 students, and several songs.

Eucon K5 teacher Esther Bacon said that she is proud of her students and that she is happy they are moving on to first grade.

Eucon president Dr. Christian Wei was grateful to the teachers for accomplishing so much for their students.

"K5 really improved and our students in K4 and K3 were outstanding as well," Wei said.

Wei also noted that Eucon doesn't only have activities for K3 but its curriculum is "very well structured."

"They are taught how to read, write, and even learn alphabets and numbers and when they move on to K4 there'll be more other programs," he said.

Eucon principal Judy Wei said that all the students made big progress throughout the school year. "Everyday from 8am to 2pm we have non-stop programs and every hour students are trained and the teachers work hard in teaching the students to read and be very well disciplined," she said.

Report cards and diplomas would be handed out this Thursday, May 29. Students will be staying in school for one more week before the summer break. Tuesday to Friday, May 27 to 29, will be half days and on May 30, the high school graduation will be held.

Green Meadow School holds commencement exercises

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, Graduation guest speaker Jackie Quitugua stresses a point in her talk. Top photo: School officers, teachers and PTSA officers join the kindergarten graduates in this picture. Bottom photo: School officers, teachers and PTSA officers join the elementary graduates.

Beatrice Ryza Y. Fabre
K5 Valedictorian

Leonard Jake B. Regalado
K5 Salutatorian

Ian Willard A. Argabioso
Valedictorian, Elementary

Natalie Jane N. Hirshbein
Salutatorian, Elementary

Green Meadow School promoted 12 kindergarten and eight elementary students to the next grade level in ceremonies held on May 17, 2014, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

It was GMS' 4th commencement exercises for elementary and the 11th for kindergarten.

The school also issued certificates of completion to twelve 3- and 4-year old children for finishing preschool programs this school year.

This year's top honors went to Ian Willard A. Ranin and Natalie Jane N. Hirshbein, elementary valedictorian and salutatorian respectively; K5 valedictorian Beatrice Ryza Y. Fabre and K5 salutatorian Leonard Jake Regalado.

The graduating students, their parents, and guests were honored with an inspiring and heart-warming talk that revolved around a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Intelligence plus character...that is the goal of true education" from guest speaker Jackie Quitugua.

Quitugua currently works with the CNMI Public School System as associate commissioner for Instructional Services. An energetic member of the community, Quitugua has been an active advocate of education for many years.

GMS president Mila Merjilla presented and confirmed the graduates before a cheering audience. Quitugua assisted Merjilla, members of faculty, and PTSA officers in awarding the diplomas, special recognitions, and awards to all the graduates. The school management and staff, expresses their heartfelt congratulations to all the graduates and to their parents. ***(GMS)***

Cabrera graduates magna cum laude

Cabrera

Jatanna Sherise Palacios Cabrera graduated with magna cum laude honors from the Northern Marianas College last Saturday, May 24, obtaining two associate of applied science degrees in Business Administration, emphasis in Accounting and Business Management.

While working at Bridge Capital, LLC as an accounting intern, Cabrera persevered in her studies. A proud member and treasurer of the NMC Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Cabrera was a four-time recipient of the First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship Awards.

While pursuing her education and garnering hands-on experience, Cabrera exercised her social responsibilities through active involvement in various community services in her capacity as a student and as a citizen. A recipient of the Community Service Learning Award at her Saipan Southern High School alma mater, Cabrera also bagged the Community Service Award at NMC.

Cabrera is the daughter of Glenda Palacios and Bernard Aldan Cabrera. Her proud parents and family wish her much success as she pursues her bachelor's degree in Accounting and in obtaining her goal of becoming a Certified Public Accountant. ***(PR)***

CONGRATULATIONS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations go out to Kristel Andrea Ramos Lubi and Anthony Christian E. Rivera for graduating from kindergarten at Golden Harvest International School last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Lubi is the class salutatorian, while Rivera is an A-honor student.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Hoping this year's birthday is the very best a super 4-year-old –like you–can ever have! Happy 4th birthday Collin Klien Maratita! Lots of love from the Kisa-Camacho family.

Business

Sweets makers work to keep their names off e-cigarettes

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Owners of brands geared toward children of all ages are battling to keep notable names like Thin Mint, Tootsie Roll and Cinnamon Toast Crunch off the flavored nicotine used in electronic cigarettes.

General Mills Inc., the Girl Scouts of the USA and Tootsie Roll Industries Inc. are among several companies that have sent cease-and-desist letters to makers of the liquid nicotine demanding they stop using the brands and may take further legal action if necessary. They want to make sure their brands aren't being used to sell an addictive drug or make it appealing to to children.

The actions highlight the debate about the array of flavors available for the battery-powered devices that heat a liquid nicotine solution, creating vapor that users inhale. The Food and Drug Administration last month proposed regulating electronic cigarettes but didn't immediately ban on fruit or candy flavors, which are barred for use in regular cigarettes because of the worry that the flavors are used to appeal to children.

AP

In this April 23, 2014 file photo, an electronic cigarette is demonstrated in Chicago.

It's growing pains for the industry that reached nearly $2 billion in sales last year in the face of looming regulation. E-cigarette users say the devices address both the addictive and behavioral aspects of smoking without the thousands of chemicals found in regular cigarettes.

There are about 1,500 e-liquid makers in the U.S. and countless others abroad selling vials of nicotine from traditional tobacco to cherry cola on the Internet and in retail stores, often featuring photos of the popular treats. Using the brand name like Thin Mint or Fireball conjures up a very specific flavor in buyers' minds, in a way that just "mint chocolate" or "cinnamon" doesn't.

"Using the Thin Mint name—which is synonymous with Girl Scouts and everything we do to enrich the lives of girls—to market e-cigarettes to youth is deceitful and shameless," Girl Scouts spokeswoman Kelly Parisi said in a statement.

It's not warm and fuzzy at family business

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Question: I feel as though I'm trapped in the family business. For the last 10 years, I have worked for my father-in-law, "Frank." My wife's brother and sister are also employed here. When Frank retires, the three of us are supposed to take over the company.

My fear is that this arrangement will not work out well. For one thing, I'm not sure that three people can actually run a business together. Also, Frank tends to be very controlling and may have a hard time letting go. These issues could adversely affect the company's success.

I left the corporate world to join this family firm, and I sometimes regret that decision. I know I have the potential to do more, but with a wife and three kids to support, changing jobs seems risky. When I once mentioned that possibility, Frank angrily threatened to sabotage my career.

Although I think about this constantly, I can't make up my mind. Should I stay and do my best to help the business succeed? Or should I get up my nerve and quit, hoping that my wife will back me up?

Answer: If you quit the family business without consulting your wife, you will have a whole new set of problems. Your career choice affects her in many ways, so don't make this decision unilaterally. Instead, the two of you must carefully weigh the pros and cons.

As you ponder your options, try to imagine your desired future five years down the road. What kind of work would be most fulfilling? What sort of lifestyle do you hope to have? What is most important for your children? See which path seems more likely to lead to your ideal scenario.

Because your father-in-law is something of a bully, either choice will require some careful planning. If you elect to stay, you need a legal agreement describing Frank's eventual transition to retirement and the subsequent partnership with your in-laws. But if you choose to leave, you must prepare for the inevitable family drama.

Even though the decision is difficult, you need to make a conscious choice based on your goals. Don't stay just because leaving is hard, and don't leave just because the family is frustrating.

■■■

Q: My co-worker's perfume is driving me crazy. Whenever I'm near "Brittany," my eyes water, and I start to get a headache. After I talked with human resources, Brittany was moved to a different cubicle, but I still have to walk past her several times a day. I went to HR again, but nothing changed. What should I do?

A: No one should wear perfume to work. Ever. There is no reason to do so, and many people find the smell offensive. For those who are allergic to the ingredients, perfume feels like office air pollution.

Instead of relocating your fragrant colleague, the HR manager should have simply told Brittany to ditch the scents. But since that didn't happen, just be thankful that she is no longer nearby and walk quickly whenever you have to pass her desk.

Nation

Deputies never saw menacing videos before Rodger rampage

GOLETA, Calif. (AP)—Sheriff's deputies who showed up at Elliot Rodger's doorstep last month to check on his mental health hadn't seen online videos in which he threatens suicide and violence even though those recordings were what prompted his parents to call authorities.

By the time law enforcement did see the videos, it was too late: The well-mannered if shy young man that deputies concluded after their visit posed no risk had gone on a deadly rampage on Friday.

The sheriff's office "was not aware of any videos until after the shooting rampage occurred," Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Kelly Hoover said.

Sheriff Bill Brown has defended the officers' actions, but the case highlights the challenges that police face in assessing the mental health of adults, particularly those with no history of violent breakdowns, institutionalizations or serious crimes.

"Obviously, looking back on this, it's a very tragic situation and we certainly wish that we could turn the clock back and maybe change some things," Brown told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday.

"At the time deputies interacted with him, he was able to convince them that he was OK," he said.

It's not clear why the deputies did not become aware of the videos. Attorney Alan Shifman said the Rodger family had called police after being alarmed by YouTube videos "regarding suicide and the killing of people" that their son had been posting.

Doris A. Fuller, executive director of the Virginia-based Treatment Advocacy Center, said California law has provisions that permit emergency psychiatric evaluations of individuals who pose a serious threat, but that was never triggered.

Rodger's family has disclosed their son was under the care of therapists.

"Once again, we are grieving over deaths and devastation caused by a young man who was sending up red flags for danger that failed to produce intervention in time to avert tragedy," Fuller said in a statement.

"In this case, the red flags were so big the killer's parents had called police ... and yet the system failed," she said.

Rodger, writing in a manifesto, said he was relieved his apartment wasn't searched because deputies would have uncovered the cache of weapons he used in the beach town rampage Friday in which he killed six people and then, authorities say, himself.

US honors veterans over Memorial Day weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. Marine Corps' chaplain, speaking Sunday to a congregation that has tied gold ribbons on the church's fence in honor of fallen soldiers since the Iraq War began, lauded the sacrifice of veterans around the world as President Barack Obama made a surprise visit to Afghanistan for Memorial Day.

"What they have done has allowed us to be here," Rear Admiral Margaret Kibben told the roughly 200 worshippers at the Marble Collegiate Church in Manhattan, including active duty servicemen and women in town for the annual Fleet Week celebration.

Memorial Day, she said, was a time to remind ourselves of the meaning of sacrifice and to put personal struggles and difficulties in perspective.

Across the nation, citizens were marking Memorial Day with somber ceremonies, flag pl5nting at cemeteries, parades and even barbecues—an American pastime that Petty Officer 1st Class Brian McNeal said should be enjoyed this weekend.

"I'm in the service so that they can enjoy that," said McNeal, 39, who is stationed in Suffolk, Virginia, and is in town for Fleet Week. "They made the sacrifice so everyday citizens don't have to worry about the evils of the world."

Thousands of memorial ribbons are tied on the storied church's fence. There are gold ribbons for service members killed in Afghanistan, green ribbons representing prayers for peace and blue ribbons for the people of Afghanistan.

Obama arrived at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan to speak with troops and visit soldiers being treated at a base hospital. At least 2,181 members of the U.S. military have died during the nearly 13-year Afghan war and thousands more have been wounded.

On Saturday, Democratic congresswoman Tammy Duckworth served as grand marshal of Chicago's Memorial Day Parade and struggled to hold back tears during a wreath-laying ceremony to honor fallen soldiers. She lost her legs and partial use of an arm when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the Black Hawk helicopter she was piloting in Iraq in 2004.

ACROSS THE NATION

3 dead, 1 wounded in shooting at US beach motel

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP)—Three people were killed and a fourth person was wounded in a shooting at an oceanfront motel in Myrtle Beach, one of South Carolina's most popular tourist destinations. The shootings took place around 11 p.m. Saturday in front of crowds of tourists at the Bermuda Sands Motel along the beach's new boardwalk, Myrtle Beach Police Capt. David Knipes said. Officers draped towels over the balcony of a breezeway just outside the doors to the rooms of the motel to shield two of the bodies from people on nearby Ocean Boulevard.

Reports: Emergency teams rush to Colorado mudslide

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (AP)—Emergency crews rushed to a large mudslide in western Colorado in Mesa County Sunday night where three people may be missing. The slide struck Sunday on Grand Mesa near the town of Collbran, about 40 miles east of Grand Junction, according to media reports. The Grand Junction Sentinel said both the Mesa County Sheriff's office and Collbran authorities have responded to the slide, which is along Salt Creek Road near Vega State Park. The Denver Post said authorities estimate the slide to be 2 miles wide

Containment on northern Arizona wildfire inches up

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—Officials said Sunday that they were slowly making progress in controlling a wildfire burning in a northern Arizona canyon that typically would draw many visitors over the Memorial Day weekend. The fire covered 21 square miles and is 25 percent contained, up from 5 percent the day before. "It will still be a lot of work to be done before those (containment) numbers will increase significantly," fire spokesman Rico Smith said. The Slide Fire has grown in the last two days as crews set fires to rob the blaze of its natural forest fuels.

Asia

Thai junta leader says king endorses coup

BANGKOK (AP)—The leader of Thailand's military junta was officially endorsed by the king Monday and warned protesters, the media and the nation's political rivals to avoid inciting division because the country could face a return "to the old days."

Dressed in a crisp white military uniform, Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha spoke at a news conference just after King Bhumibol Adulyadej endorsed him to run the country in a royal command that called for "reconciliation among the people" and was concerned about increasingly violent confrontations between the ousted government and dispersed demonstrators who had called repeatedly for the army to intervene.

Prayuth also justified the putsch that was declared last Thursday, saying he had to restore order after seven months of violent confrontations and political turmoil between the now-ousted government and demonstrators who had called repeatedly for the army to intervene.

"The most important thing right now is to keep peace and order in the country," Prayuth said. "When the conflict intensified, and there was the threat of violence, we had to act."

In sporadic violence since last November, 28 people have been killed and more than 800 injured in grenade attacks, gun fights and drive-by shootings.

AP

Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha speaks at the start of his first press conference since Thursday's coup Monday, May 26, 2014.

"I am not here to argue with anyone. Our intentions are pure, and we will remain transparent ... everyone needs to help me," Prayuth said, before adding, "do not criticize, do not start problems. It's no use."

Since last week, the military has sought to limit the protests by detaining figures who might play leadership roles. The junta has defended the detentions of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, most of the deposed government's Cabinet, and dozens of politicians and activists.

It also has ordered dozens of outspoken activists, academics and journalists to report to military authorities. More than 200—the majority considered opponents of the new regime—have been officially summoned so far in lists broadcast on radio and TV.

The fate of Yingluck, who surrendered herself Friday, and many others remains unclear. Some detainees have been released, and the military has said it expects to free most after about a week.

Prayuth said the media must "control your message. Anyone who posts on Facebook that incites, I consider that against the peace of the country"

"Do you really want to go back to the old days? Right now there are people coming out to protest. Do your really want to go back?" he asked. "If so, I will have to enforce the law."

Obama signals US to keep limited Afghanistan role

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan (AP)—President Barack Obama slipped into Afghanistan for a surprise visit Sunday and made clear that the U.S. will likely maintain a limited role here even after its combat mission ends this year and America's longest war comes to a close.

"America's commitment to the people of Afghanistan will endure," he pledged.

Speaking to troops gathered in an airplane hangar on this sprawling military base, Obama said the war had reached a pivotal point, with Afghan forces assuming primary responsibility for their country's security. But while many of the 32,800 U.S. forces now in Afghanistan will leave in the coming months, Obama said a continued military presence could help protect gains made during nearly 13 years of fighting.

"After all the sacrifices we've made, we want to preserve the gains that you have helped to win and we're going to make sure that Afghanistan can never again, ever, be used again to launch an attack against our country," Obama declared.

At least 2,181 members of the U.S. military have died during the nearly 13-year Afghan war and thousands more have been wounded.

Obama told the troops, "For many of you, this will be your last tour in Afghanistan," a comment was met with an eruption of applause. "America's war in Afghanistan will come to a responsible end."

The president appeared optimistic that the Afghan government soon would sign a bilateral security agreement allowing the U.S. to keep some forces in the country to train Afghans and launch counterterrorism operations. He has been considering keeping up to 10,000 troops in Afghanistan and said he would announce his decision shortly.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China: 23 terror, extremist groups busted in May

BEIJING (AP)—So far this month, police in China's restive western region of Xinjiang have broken up 23 terror and religious extremism groups and caught over 200 suspects, state media reported Monday. It was the first announcement of a large number of arrests since an attack last week in the region's capital killed at least 34 that police have blamed on a "terrorist gang." Authorities subsequently launched a high-profile one-year security crackdown targeting terrorists and extremists, although the figures for the latest detentions are for the whole month of May. The official Xinhua News Agency cited the regional security bureau in providing the information. The Tianshan news portal, which is run by the regional branch of the Communist Party, also reported the detentions and raids, which took place in the cities of Hotan, Kashgar and Aksu. The publicity office of the Ministry of Public Security did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment.

Reward for tips on ferry owner boosted to $500,000

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has boosted to half a million dollars a reward for tips about the mysterious billionaire who prosecutors say owns a ferry that sank last month, police said Monday. The ten-fold increase in the reward comes as officials struggle to find Yoo Byung-eun on allegations of tax evasion, embezzlement and professional negligence. Prosecutors have said that a failure to spend enough money on safety may be a reason for the April 16 sinking. The sinking of the Sewol ferry left more than 300 people dead or missing, most of them high school students.

World

Early returns show Poroshenko winning Ukraine vote

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Early returns Monday suggested candy tycoon Petro Poroshenko was elected president of Ukraine in the first round of balloting. In taking on the leadership of the bitterly divided country, he vowed to "put an end to war, chaos, crime, and bring peace to the Ukrainian land."

The 48-year-old billionaire, who claimed victory after exit polls showed him with a commanding lead in Sunday's vote, supports strong ties with Europe but also wants to mend ties with Russia.

He said his first steps as president would be to visit the Donbass eastern industrial region, where pro-Russia separatists have seized government buildings and battled government troops in weeks of fighting. Poroshenko also said the Kiev government would like to negotiate a new security treaty with Moscow.

The rebels had vowed to block the voting in the east, and less than 20 percent of the polling stations were open there after gunmen intimidated local residents by smashing ballot boxes, shutting down polling centers and issuing threats.

But nationwide, about 60 percent of 35.5 million eligible voters turned out, the central elections commission said, and long lines snaked around polling stations in the capital, Kiev.

Poroshenko

With votes from about 40 percent of precincts counted early Monday, Poroshenko was leading with 54 percent in the field of 21 candidates. Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was running a distant second with 13 percent.

Both results were in line with the exit polls, which showed Poroshenko with nearly 56 percent and Tymoshenko with 13 percent. If that margin holds, Poroshenko would avoid a runoff election next month with the second-place finisher.

Speaking after the polls closed, Poroshenko also promised a dialogue with residents of eastern Ukraine and to guarantee their rights, including the right to speak Russian. He also said he was ready to extend amnesty to those who haven't taken up weapons.

"For those who are killing the people, they are terrorists, and no country in the world has any negotiations with terrorists," Poroshenko said, speaking in English.

The election, which came three months after pro-Moscow President Viktor Yanukovych was chased from office by crowds following months of street protests and allegations of corruption, was seen as a critical step toward resolving Ukraine's protracted crisis.

Pope gives Palestinians boost of support

JERUSALEM (AP)—Pope Francis delivered a powerful boost of support to the Palestinians during a Holy Land pilgrimage Sunday, repeatedly backing their statehood aspirations, praying solemnly at Israel's controversial separation barrier and calling the stalemate in peace efforts "unacceptable."

In an unscripted move, Francis arranged a meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian presidents at the Vatican next month. The meeting, while largely symbolic, shows how the pope has sought to transform his immensely popular appeal into a moral force for peace.

On the second day of a three-day swing through the region, the pope arrived in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Christianity, before heading to Israel for the final leg of his visit.

While Francis mingled warmly with his Israeli hosts, his trip to Bethlehem included the day's most powerful images as he expressed sympathy and solidarity with the Palestinians.

"I am with you," he told a group of Palestinian children at a stop in Bethlehem's Deheishe refugee camp. He also held a private lunch with five Palestinian families who say they have been harmed by Israeli policies.

Even the pope's arrival in Bethlehem—by helicopter straight from Jordan—carried important symbolic significance. Past papal visits to the West Bank have come through Israel, which captured the territory in the 1967 Mideast war.

Palestinian officials hailed Francis' decision to refer to the "state of Palestine." In its official program, the Vatican referred to President Mahmoud Abbas as the president of the "state of Palestine," and his Bethlehem office as the "presidential palace." He pointedly called Abbas a "man of peace."

Jubilant Palestinians cheered Francis as he arrived in Bethlehem's Manger Square, shouting "Viva al-Baba!" or "Long live the pope!" Giant Palestinian flags in red, white, green and black and the Vatican's yellow-and-white flags decorated the square, which is home to the Church of the Nativity, built over the grotto where tradition says Jesus was born.

"Coming to Bethlehem and flying to Bethlehem from Jordan shows solidarity with the Palestinian people, which is wonderful. We need that," said Samar Sakkakin, a 52-year-old Palestinian-American from Canton, Michigan.

Egyptians vote to elect country's next president

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptians were choosing a new president on Monday in an election that comes nearly a year after the military's ouster of the nation's first freely elected president, the Islamist Mohammed Morsi.

The man who removed Morsi, retired military chief Field Marshal Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, is practically assured of a victory in the vote, which is being held over two days, Monday and Tuesday.

El-Sissi, who has for the past 10 months been the most powerful figure in Egypt, will be looking for a strong turnout to show the world that his removal of Morsi was the will of the people.

The only other candidate in the race is leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi, who finished third in the 2012 presidential election.

The balloting is taking place amid tight security, with tens of thousands of troops and police throwing security rings around polling centers across the nation. Egypt has some 53 million registered voters.

By percentage of votes, el-Sissi could win a landslide, but his camp's attention will be on the turnout. A low turnout would show the narrowness of his support in a country that has risen up against two presidents since 2011.

If Sabahi manages to thwart a landslide with a respectable showing, it would be a further blow, showing an existing and active opposition to el-Sissi despite the media hype.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group from which Morsi hails, has instructed its followers to boycott the vote. Also boycotting the polls are many of the pro-democracy youths who have participated in the 2011 uprising against longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

El-Sissi has pledged to bring democracy to Egypt but Morsi's backers say the ouster of an elected president crushed those hopes. El-Sissi's supporters say he saved the country from Islamists while his secular critics fear he will enshrine a Mubarak-style autocracy once more.

Egyptians are desperately looking to have a president who would restore security and revive the economy. Failure to show tangible results could trigger a new wave of unrest that some fear could be even more violent.

Focus

AP

Images of Chrisotper Ross Michael-Martinez are displayed as part of a makeshift memorial in front of the IV Deli Mart, where part of Friday night's mass shooting took place by a drive-by shooter Sunday, May 25, 2014, in the Isla Vista area near Goleta, Calif.

Denied again by people he hated, gunman improvised

By MARTHA MENDOZA and JUSTIN PRITCHARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOLETA, Calif. (AP)—Elliot Rodger pounded on the sorority house front door while, inside, the young women he yearned to slaughter were preparing for another Friday night.

The awkward 22-year-old was obsessed with exacting "retribution" for what he experienced as a lifetime of social and sexual isolation, and had planned meticulously to target as many people as possible, authorities say. But here again, he was denied access to those he felt should worship him.

So when no one answered after several minutes, Rodger improvised.

Walking around the corner, authorities say, he found a group of students and opened fire, then took off in his black BMW through the streets of a college beach town buzzing with end-of-school-year energy. Within 10 minutes, the rampage was over and Rodger was dead, apparently after shooting himself.

As authorities reconstructed the events, they would conclude that Rodger had stabbed three victims in his apartment, shot and killed three others at random, and injured 13 more either with gunshots or a car that he used as a battering ram against bicyclists and skateboarders.

The mayhem unfolded within just one square mile near the University of California, Santa Barbara campus, but included 12 crime scenes.

The killings began with the stabbings in the apartment that Rodger rented, inside a two-story courtyard building fronted by palm trees. Authorities said Sunday that Cheng Yuan Hong, 20; George Chen, 19; Weihan Wang, 20, were killed Friday. All were from the San Francisco Bay Area and were students at the university. Hong and Chen were listed on the apartment lease, but it's unclear if Wang was a roommate or just visiting.

Rodger then drove five blocks to the Alpha Phi sorority house, authorities say.

In rambling writings he titled "My Twisted World," Rodger detailed his plan to kill his roommates and then invade the sorority, which he concluded symbolized the world that tortured him—beautiful women who would have spurned him in favor of the "obnoxious slobs" whom he also despised.

"I will sneak into their house at around 9:00 p.m. on the Day of Retribution, just before all the partying starts, and slaughter every single one of them," Rodger wrote. He knew the stucco house, with its neatly trimmed lawn and hedges, well: "I've sat outside it in my car to stalk them many times."

The double front door is heavy wood, with glass etchings of the sorority's shield and an electronic keypad to get in. Several women heard Rodger's "aggressive knocking," Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said. "Fortunately, no one opened."

Moments later came the first 911 call.

It was 9:27 p.m., and Rodger had left the door and within 20 paces encountered a group that included Veronika Weiss and Katherine Cooper. He shot and killed the two UCSB students, and wounded a third.

All three were from the Delta Delta Delta sorority. The outgoing Cooper was preparing to graduate with a degree in art history; Weiss was a first-year student who had played water polo in high school.

Two blocks and three minutes later, Rodger was at a local deli. There, he got out of his car, went inside and shot and killed Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez. Friends described him as the kind of person who would welcome strangers into his home. He planned to study abroad and then go to law school.

At least four other customers were inside, and surveillance video shows them scrambling for cover while a bullet hits the glass of a refrigerator door.

Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene and saw Rodger's BMW leaving, but did not know the shooter was at the wheel.

Soon after, Rodger was driving on the left side of another road so that he could be close to the sidewalk as he fired at two pedestrians. And then, more shots—this time between Rodger and the first sheriff's deputy to engage with him.

Meanwhile, Ryan Ellis was wrapping up his Friday night service at Isla Vista Church, a makeshift house of worship inside a beach home on a street filled with students—and on Friday night, parties.

A few dozen young adults were getting ready for hamburgers when shots rang out. Fireworks, someone said.

"I knew right away it was gunshots," said Ellis, who said he had been a Navy combat engineer in Afghanistan.

He ran out to the street and saw a cyclist lying on the ground, but no car around. "He was pretty messed up, lying up against a vehicle," said Ellis.

The cyclist, who was not identified, was one of two whom Rodger intentionally smashed with his car.

By now, officers were yelling at people to go inside and friends were texting friends not to go out.

After shooting at more pedestrians, Rodger encountered four sheriff's deputies running through a park. Three returned fire, and a bullet hit Rodger in his left hip, authorities said.

Speeding on, Rodger accelerated and hit another cyclist, who was thrown onto the hood with a force that crumpled the windshield. Rodger's car then careened into several parked vehicles. It was there, in the car, that he apparently shot himself, leaving three semi-automatic handguns and 400 unspent rounds.

"The police dragged a body out of the car," said UC Santa Barbara senior Kyley Scarlet, who was in a house next to where the car came to a halt. "It was him."

Last 2 victims in California rampage identified

GOLETA, Calif. (AP)—A gunman went on a rampage Friday night near the University of California, Santa Barbara that left seven people dead, including him. Here are the stories of the six victims, who were all students at the university.

KATHERINE BREANN COOPER

Her friend Courtney Benjamin said Cooper, 22, was a painter with an outgoing side. The resident of Chino Hills, California, was about to graduate with a degree in art history.

"She was a self-proclaimed princess and I love her for that," Benjamin said. "And I know she has a crown on her head today."

Andrew Notohamiprodjo was Cooper's ballroom dance teacher three years ago and later supervised her as a teaching assistant in ballroom dance. Cooper was looking forward to graduating but planned to stay in town another year, he said.

"She was a lot of fun, super forward," he said.

Cooper graduated from Ruben S. Ayala High School in Chino Hills in 2010.

CHENG YUAN HONG

One of Elliot Rodger's roommates, Hong was among the first three killed. Sheriff's officials had mentioned at a Saturday press conference that Rodger contacted authorities to report his roommate had allegedly his stolen candles. Santa Barbara District Attorney Joyce Dudley says Hong was that roommate.

Hong, 20, was charged with petty theft, and Dudley said he pleaded guilty.

Hong was from San Jose, California.

AP

This image from video posted on YouTube shows Elliot Rodger.

GEORGE CHEN

Chen, 19, was among the three young men found dead with multiple stab wounds in Rodger's apartment, the Santa Barbara sheriff's office said. Chen, also from San Jose, was listed on the lease for the apartment along with Hong and Rodger.

WEIHAN WANG

Wang, 20, of Fremont, California, was among the three young men Rodger killed, authorities say. Investigators were trying to determine whether he was also a roommate or was visiting at the time of the attack.

CHRISTOPHER ROSS MICHAELS-MARTINEZ

Michaels-Martinez, 20, was an English major from Los Osos, California, who planned to go to London next year and to law school after graduation, his father, Richard Martinez, said at a Saturday press conference.

He pulled out a photo of his son as a small child in a Chicago Cubs baseball uniform and said they used to call him "mini-Sammy Sosa," referring to the former Cubs star.

"Chris was a really great kid," Martinez said. "Ask anyone who knew him."

Friends said Michaels-Martinez, who served as residential adviser at a dorm last year, was the kind of guy who would welcome strangers into his home.

VERONIKA ELIZABETH WEISS

Weiss, 19, was first-year student from Westlake Village, California.

"She was always a happy person," said Eric Pursley, who worked with Weiss at a Target store in Thousand Oaks last year.

Weiss was a water polo player at Westlake High School who earned league honors during her senior year, according to the Thousand Oaks Acorn newspaper.

Overdrive

Honda spreads it wings with latest cycle

By SUSAN CARPENTER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Honda Gold Wing Valkyrie

- Base price: $18,389*
- Powertrain: Fuel-injected, liquid-cooled, horizontally opposed six-cylinder, SOHC, two valves per cylinder, five-speed manual transmission, shaft drive
- Displacement: 1,832 cc
- Wheelbase: 67.1 inches
- Seat height: 28.9 inches
- Fuel capacity: 6 gallons
- Curb weight: 752 lbs.

*Includes $390 destination charge

The 2014 Honda Gold Wing Valkyrie is the smallest and lightest of the brand's six-cylinder cruisers. MCT

Honda's RV of a motorcycle is breeding. Last year, the Japanese manufacturer spun off a stripped-down version of its legendary Gold Wing touring bike—the F6B. Now, it's birthed an even more basic muscle cruiser without the bags or top case.

After an 11-year hiatus, the Valkyrie is not only back in action and ready to rip across the pavement but re-branded and re-born as a lightweight Wing.

It's ironic that the baby of Honda's six-cylinder cruiser brood could, in other parts of the world, carry entire families. The Valkyrie weighs 152 pounds less than its mama, but that's still the equivalent of twin sumo wrestlers: 752 pounds.

With its front end cowled in twin radiators and everything else, from fork to fender, looking outrageously overbuilt, I expected my flight on board the Valkyrie to be unwieldy. But appearances are deceiving. Despite its hulking profile, the Valkyrie is one of the easiest-handling cruisers I've ever ridden.

During a daylong ride in Temecula last month, Honda had arranged a sort of family reunion where all three Gold Wings were on hand, including the newest addition, which went on sale in April.

All three motorcycles are powered with the same 1,832 cc engine—a fuel-injected, liquid-cooled flat-six instead of a cruiser-traditional, air-cooled V-twin. The anti-Hog, the engine is so quiet at idle it's almost as if it isn't running. It's the sort of bike that lets its actions do the talking instead of a loud pipe.

The power delivery is so instant the clutch needs to be let out slowly because the Valkyrie really does want to fly. Its phenomenal power is easily accessed with a smooth-shifting transmission that finds neutral easily, without any crunching or groping with a toe.

While it's odd that Honda has opted to keep a dated five-speed transmission instead of upgrading it to a more modern six, I never felt like I'd run out of gears even when moving at freeway speeds. In the canyons, I swept through turns even at extremely low rpm without the engine lugging in rebellion.

The Valkyrie's riding position is comfortably upright, like a cruiser's, while its foot pegs are centered, like a touring bike. It would enhance the Valkyrie's aggressive bodywork if the pegs were placed slightly further back, similar to a drag bike. But that might send the wrong message: that the Valkyrie is a straight line rocket when in reality it's a sport bike in cruiser drag.

If its 17-inch rear wheel hints at the Valkyrie's sporting intentions, riding it seals the deal. An exceptionally well-balanced machine with an extremely low saddle of just 28.8 inches, it wants you to assertively carve the canyons instead of contentedly cruising.

Whatever wind protection is built into the Valkyrie is coincidental—a side effect of a seating position that's so low it turns the handlebar dashboard display into a quasi wind break, while the radiators shield the knees.

Equipping the Valkyrie with an accessory saddlebag and windscreen to make it more touring capable will cost less than stepping up to the F6B with its built-in side cases and shorty windshield. The Valkyrie costs $2,000 less than the F6B and $6,000 less than the fully loaded tourer, but it's still quite expensive. It starts at $18,389, including destination.

Anti-lock brakes can be added as an option—for a Gold Wing-size premium, of course: $1,000.

MOTORING Q&A

More light on sunroof problem

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Question: The sunroof on my 2005 Suburban will not close. I turned on the ignition switch to lower the windows and open the sunroof to air out the interior a couple of weekends ago. I left the key on after opening the windows and discharged the battery to the point where the windows and sunroof would not close. I charged the battery and the windows closed, but the sunroof moved about an inch and stopped. To reprogram the sunroof, the manual states to push the switch to the vent position to start the programming process. However, the window is open and will not close to start the process. A Chevy dealership and a business that specializes in interiors and sunroofs did not have an answer or a possible solution without bringing it in.

Answer: According to the GM reprogramming instructions in my ALLDATA automotive database, even if the sunroof won't close when you push the switch to the vent position, hold the switch in this position for at least 30 seconds until you hear a slight clicking noise from the front of the sunroof—this should confirm the reprogramming was successful.

If this doesn't work, the sunroof assembly must be removed so that the motor can be removed and the guide pins pushed all the way forward to the stops. Good luck.

Q: Several months ago my '05 Hyundai XG350 displayed an "airbag" message in my dashboard. I had my dealer perform a diagnostic test that informed me I had a "bad air bag" located in the driver's seat. The cost to repair: $1,500 for the part, plus labor. I declined.

My brother has a mechanic friend who suggested I "turn on your cruise control." Within five minutes the airbag light went out. To this day, several months later, the airbag light has NOT come on. I have called several dealers and shops asking if another diagnostic test can be performed without the light on and they all replied they cannot do another test. I truly believe the "sensor" was the cause of this airbag message and that I do not have a bad airbag. Do you have any other suggestions?

A: Wow! Who ever said that automobiles cannot be "self-healing"? I have absolutely no idea how or why the operation of the cruise control would have any influence on a restraint system fault code, but I can tell you that if the airbag warning light flashes during its initial self-test when you first turn on the ignition, then goes out for the duration of your drive, there is no current fault with the system.

With that said, most "B-series" body codes will stay in memory until cleared by a scan tool. So it would seem the original DTC code for the airbag light should still be in the computer memory. You should have the dealer scan the body control module for any stored restraint system fault codes.

Q: I have a 2005 Chevy Silverado 1500 with 115,000 miles on it. Just recently my gas gauge needle went from three-fourths to way over full and stayed there for several days and is now working fine. Yesterday my oil pressure gauge needle went from normal to off the gauge on the high end. I checked my oil level and it is in the normal range. What do you suggest?

A: GM issued several bulletins on this type of instrument cluster issue for your year truck and ultimately extended the warranty on these components out to several years/70,000 miles for parts and labor, and an additional 10,000 miles—a total of 80,000 miles—for parts only.

I wouldn't hesitate to ask the dealer to ask GM for some type of "customer goodwill" adjustment to help with the cost of the repair. If no help is available—your vehicle is significantly past the extended warranty—you'll have to choose whether to have it repaired or live with the condition.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.

Life & Style

It's official: North Carolina is now tops in 'American Idols'

By THAD OGBURN
THE NEWS & OBSERVER (RALEIGH, N.C.)

Sorry, Alabama. It's now official—North Carolina is the go-to state for "American Idols."

With Asheville rocker Caleb Johnson's win on the TV singing competition late Wednesday, the Tar Heel State can now claim three "Idol" winners—Season 3's Fantasia Barrino, Season 10's Scotty McCreery and now Season 13's Johnson.

Before Wednesday, North Carolina and Alabama had been tied with two "Idols" apiece. (Alabama can claim Season 2's Ruben Studdard and Season 5's Taylor Hicks.)

AP
Ryan Seacrest, right, announces Caleb Johnson the winner at the American Idol XIII finale at the Nokia Theatre at L.A. Live on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, in Los Angeles.

"You deserve it, take it all in! Welcome to the family!" McCreery, the Garner native and current N.C. State University student, tweeted to Johnson on Wednesday night.

North Carolina's dominance is even more impressive when you look at those from the state who didn't win the "Idol" title but still went on to successful music careers:

- Season 2 runner-up Clay Aiken (now a Democratic congressional candidate) is in fourth place in all-time "Idol" album sales. (Studdard, who won that season, is sixth.)
- Season 5's Chris Daughtry finished fourth but is third all-time in album sales.
- Season 5's Kellie Pickler finished sixth but is eighth all-time in album sales.

So, of the Top 10 in sales figures for all "Idol" contestants, five are from North Carolina—Daughtry (third), Aiken (fourth), Barrino (fifth), McCreery (seventh) and Pickler (eighth). The two biggest sellers—by far—are Season 4 winner Carrie Underwood (more than 14.5 million albums sold) and Season 1 winner Kelly Clarkson (more than 12.7 million albums sold.)

Johnson, 23, wasn't the only North Carolinian in this year's "Idol" final 10. Goldsboro's Majesty Rose, 22, finished ninth.

Two others from North Carolina made the Top 10 in their seasons—Season 5's Bucky Covington (finished eighth) and Season 7's Anoop Desai (finished tied for sixth).

A favorite all season, Johnson defeated Jena Irene, 17, of Farmington Hills, Mich., in the finals.

Johnson, Irene and Rose will tour with the rest of this season's Top 10 this summer as "American Idol Live!"

As previous "Idol" winners have, Johnson released a debut single, "As Long As You Love Me," before he won. His album will be released on Aug. 12.

STATE OF 'IDOL'

Of the 13 "American Idol" winners, three are from North Carolina (Fantasia Barrino of Season 3, Scotty McCreery of Season 10 and Caleb Johnson of Season 13.) Two are from Alabama (Season 2's Ruben Studdard and Season 5's Taylor Hicks.)
States with one "Idol" winner:

- Arizona—Jordin Sparks (Season 6)
- Arkansas—Kris Allen (Season 8)
- Georgia—Phillip Phillips (Season 11)
- Illinois—Lee DeWyze (Season 9)
- Missouri—David Cook (Season 7)
- Oklahoma—Carrie Underwood (Season 4)
- South Carolina—Candice Glover (Season 12)
- Texas—Kelly Clarkson (Season 1)

'World's ugliest woman' pursues anti-bullying film

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—In December 2013, she inspired millions with her TED Talk. Now Lizzie Velasquez, once called "the world's ugliest woman," hopes to reach an even-wider audience through an anti-bullying documentary about her story.

"I know what it is to be bullied and what is to be bullied online, and I want to be the protector of those who think it won't get better," said Velasquez, 25, who has a rare disease that makes it impossible for her to gain weight. She has never weighed more than 64 pounds and is blind in one eye.

"The idea is that they see the documentary and realize that, yes, it is possible to overcome everything," she told The Associated Press during an interview in a coffee shop in Austin, Texas.

She's raising money for the film, tentatively titled "The Lizzie Project," through a Kickstarter campaign that has already collected more than $123,000 in donations. The campaign, whose trailer can be seen at TheLizzieProject.com, ends May 31. The goal is to raise $180,000.

Velasquez was born in Austin in 1989 with a syndrome so rare only two other people in the world are known to have it.

She became a celebrity on Dec. 5, 2013, when her TED Talk (short speeches designed to share and spread ideas from a number of disciplines) in Austin (part of the worldwide event TEDxWomen) became a hit. In her speech, Velasquez explained that her life changed at age 17, when she saw herself on a YouTube video titled, "The world's ugliest woman." The video's comments section featured comments such as, "Do the world a favor and put a gun to your head."

"Instead of just taking shelter of my tears, I chose to be happy and realize this syndrome is not a problem but a blessing that allows me to improve myself and inspire other people," said Velasquez.

In the years since she saw the video and comments, Velasquez graduated from college, wrote three self-help books (the third, "Choosing Happiness," will be published in August) and gained tens of thousands of followers on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. She's been interviewed by Katie Couric and ABC's "The View," where she met Barbara Walters and Whoopi Goldberg.

Velasquez credits her strength to her parents, who have always loved her the same way they love her siblings, Marina and Chris, neither of whom suffer from the syndrome.

"They're the best parents in the entire world," said Velasquez. "From the moment I was born they showered me with love. And they didn't just raise me. They raised my brother and sister in the exact same way. So that love, multiplied times three, is what definitely brought me to where I am today."

Velasquez was born four weeks premature. Doctors used a photo to show her to her mother for the first time. "I started crying inconsolably, but I asked them to bring her to me nevertheless," said Rita Velasquez. "I wanted to see her, hold her and love her."

Her father said Lizzie realized she was different on her first day of kindergarten, when other kids didn't want to play with her. "We told her about the syndrome and, ever since, (Lizzie) showed great signs of maturity," he said.

"Lizzie has such an inner strength and sense of humor that anyone can relate to her," said Sara Bordo, a first-time director working with Velasquez on the film project. "We all have difficulties in life, but nothing compared to what she has been through. Her positive attitude elevates the spirit of any person in the world."

Velasquez says she's not interested in a possible cure for her syndrome.

"No, there is no way, I wouldn't even consider it," Velasquez said. "If you had asked me that question when I was 13, I'd probably have said yes. I'd be all for it, I'd do the trial, whatever. But if you ask me that now, I've learned and I've come such a long way to be able to accept who I am and own who I am that, if I changed anything about me I wouldn't be Lizzie, I wouldn't be true to myself."

Wiz Khalifa is arrested on pot charge in Texas

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—Authorities say rapper Wiz Khalifa has been arrested in West Texas for marijuana possession.

Khalifa

The performer from Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania, was stopped at an inspection checkpoint at the El Paso airport. A statement from El Paso police says because Khalifa traveled without identification, a search was ordered and Transportation Security Administration agents found a canister with marijuana. TSA alerted police, who then arrested Khalifa.

He was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and was released after posting $300 bail.

Court records do not list an attorney. A message left at Khalifa's agency was not immediately returned.

Khalifa posted a photo on Twitter inside of what appeared to be a holding cell.

Khalifa was born Cameron Thomaz in Minot, North Dakota. He was a headliner at an El Paso music festival Saturday.

Death Announcement

Irminia Arriola Benavente Cox

Was called to her eternal rest on May 24, 2014

Daily mass is being said at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m.
Nightly Rosary is being said at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. except for May 30th, 31st and June 1st as follows:

- Friday May 30th - St. Jude 6:30 p.m. (after 6:00 p.m. Mass)
- Saturday May 31st and Sunday June 1st, St. Jude Church at 7:00 p.m.

Funeral details will be announced later.

Brazil World Cup song fails to strike right tone

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—The official World Cup song is definitely striking a chord—the wrong one with many in host country Brazil.

Since the recent release of FIFA's "We Are One (Ole Ola)," hordes of fans in Brazil have been slamming the official 2014 Cup theme. Many expressed their frustration on Twitter under the tag #VoltaWakaWaka—a plea for the return of the widely loved song that Colombian artist Shakira performed for the 2010 tournament in South Africa.

Although Brazilian Claudia Leitte is also featured in the official theme, critics say they don't understand why Cuban-American rapper Pitbull and Bronx-born Puerto Rican singer Jennifer Lopez were chosen for the song when there are so many other great musicians in the land of Bossa Nova.

They also complain that the song is mostly in English and Spanish, leaving only a few seconds at the end for Leitte to sing in her native Portuguese.

"What I don't like about the music is that it's a poor, dull, generic pop theme," said Gaia Passarelli, a Brazilian music journalist and a former VJ for MTV Brazil. "It's a shame considering Brazil's rich musical tradition, which is admired all over the world."

"In the end, we lost a chance to do something rich, inspiring and cool. I'm feeling 'saudades' for Shakira," Passarelli said, using a Portuguese word that roughly translates as painful longing.

AP

In this Jan. 23, 2014 file photo, Brazilian singer Claudia Leitte, left, and rapper Pitbull pose at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Claudia Leitte and Pitbull will perform the Wordl Cup song with Jennifer Lopez.

Shakira does have a song on FIFA's official World Cup album, the driving "Dare (La La La)." By Sunday, a video of it featuring Barcelona players such as Argentina's Lionel Messi and Brazil's Neymar had been viewed nearly 27 million times on YouTube in the three days since its release. But it's not the designated official song for the event.

FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke emphasized Leitte's involvement when the song was released earlier this year.

"In my many visits to this country, I've heard a lot about the great Brazilian music tradition and it gives me great pleasure to see a Brazilian artist at the heart of this song," Valcke said after the theme was presented at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium.

The song's music video features images of Brazil's icons like Rio's Christ the Redeemer statue as well as Brazilian soccer stars. But critics say it also reinforces stereotypes with smiling, barefoot children and semi-naked, samba-dancing women.

Naming an official FIFA song dates back to the 1966 Cup in England. Since then, fans have hummed to favorites like "Un'estate italiana" by Edoardo Bennato and Gianna Nannini in Italy 1990 and "La Copa de la Vida" by Ricky Martin in France 1998. While Shakira's catchy "Waka Waka (This Time for Africa)" was popular, Placido Domingo's "El Mundial" for Spain 1982 was less so.

"The music in other World Cups was also stripped of local color," said Leonardo Martinelli, a composer and music critic who lives in Sao Paulo.

"Whether it's in South Africa, Germany or Japan-Korea, the regional musical element was used only as a very light seasoning, just enough to give it a discreet local color," he said. "In the case of this latest song, the seasoning has its right amount of cliches and stereotypes usual with commercial music."

'X-Men' dominates holiday box office with $91M

This image released by 20th Century Fox shows Michael Fassbender in the film, "X-Men: Days of Future Past."

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A team of mutants overpowered one massive mutant monster at the box office during the Memorial Day holiday.

Fox-Marvel's "X-Men: Days of Future Past" debuted with $91 million beating last weekend's No. 1 hit, the Warner Bros. sci-fi adventure "Godzilla," which earned $31.4 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Days of Future Past" is estimated to earn nearly $110 million over the four-day extended holiday weekend, which would make it the fifth-highest Memorial Day opener just after last year's $117 million-grossing "Fast & Furious 6." "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" holds as the highest Memorial holiday debut ever with $140 million in 2007.

It appears the attention "Days of Future Past" director Bryan Singer has received lately due a sexual assault lawsuit didn't deter fans from flocking to the theater. The director dropped out of doing any press for the film following the allegations because he didn't want to divert attention from the movie.

1. **"X-Men: Days of Future Past," $91 million** *($171.1 million international)*.
2. **"Godzilla," $31.4 million** *($35 million international)*.
3. **"Blended," $14.2 million** *($2.1 million international)*.
4. **"Neighbors," $14 million** *($8.2 million international)*.
5. **"The Amazing Spider-Man 2," $8 million** *($11.2 million international)*.
6. **"Million Dollar Arm," $7.1 million.**
7. **"The Other Woman," $4 million** *($3.8 million international)*.
8. **"Rio 2," $3 million** *($5 million international)*.
9. **"Chef," $2.2 million** *($425.000)*.
10. **"Heaven Is for Real," $2 million.**

"Rarely do outside situations impact the box office," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "The true fans, all they care about is the movie."

"Days of Future Past" is the second-highest opener in the "X-Men" franchise after Brett Ratner's "X-Men: The Last Stand" debuted over Memorial Day weekend with $123 million in 2006.

The film brings together a massive star-studded cast including Hugh Jackman, Jennifer Lawrence, Halle Berry, Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy, Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen, Peter Dinklage and Ellen Page.

Globally, "Days of Future Past" opened No. 1 in 119 countries with $262 million, the highest grossing opening weekend worldwide of the "X-Men" franchise and the biggest Fox International opening weekend ever.

"This is a franchise that started back in 2000, which predated the first `Spider-Man' movie by two years so `X-Men' started the renaissance in the world of big superhero movies," Dergarabedian said.

The Warner Bros. romantic comedy "Blended" debuted at No. 3 with a lackluster $14.2 million. In the movie, Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore team up for the third time following "The Wedding Singer" and "50 First Dates."

Universal's Seth Rogen and Zac Efron-starring lewd comedy "Neighbors" took in $14 million as it crosses the $100 million mark domestically with $114 million overall.

Sony's "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" rounds out the top five with $8 million in its fourth weekend, while Disney's "Million Dollar Arm" followed close behind with a solid $7.1 million in its second weekend.

Cannes Film Festival lit up by class conflict

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

CANNES, France (AP)—Cannes doesn't in any way resemble the site of roiling class conflict. It's a French Riviera playground for the 1 percent, a sun-dappled land of velvet ropes.

Yet at this year's Cannes Film Festival, which came to a close Sunday after 12 days of cinema and glamour, the films that flashed across Cannes' grand theaters coursed with the conflict of rich and poor, navigating the wide distance between the two. Inequality often propels big-screen dramas, but the 67th annual Cannes fest was striking for its global view of haves and have nots, from Pennsylvania to Russia, Argentina to France.

The fest's top honor, the Palme d'Or went to Nuri Bilge Ceylan's "Winter Sleep," a slow burning, three hour-plus drama thick in class tension set on Turkey's wintery Anatolia steppe. An arrogant, unaware landlord sits high above his village tenants, oblivious to their struggle even after a child of a family behind in their rent throws a stone against his passing truck. Ceylan dedicated the award to "the young people of Turkey" and Turks that had died over the past year, referencing the anti-government protests that have raged in the country—including in recent days after a coal mine disaster killed more than 300 workers.

In the powerful Russian satire "Leviathan," which won best screenplay, a small-town family is ruined when a corrupt mayor (a portrait of Vladimir Putin looms in his office) dispossesses their home. "Two Days, One Night" by the Dardenne brothers (longtime filmmakers of working-class struggle), stars Marion Cotillard as a woman who strives over a weekend to convince her co-workers to vote against a pay raise that will terminate her job. Each is faced with the choice of taking less to help another. David Michod's lean thriller "The Rover" imagined a near-future Australia after the total collapse of its financial system. (Hint: It's not so nice.)

Economic disparity is also the backdrop to Bennett Miller's "Foxcatcher," a true-life psychological drama about two elite athletes—Olympic wrestling champs Mark and Dave Schultz, played by Channing Tatum and Mark Ruffalo—and a wealthy but strange benefactor (Steve Carell in a striking dramatic role) who lures them to train at his Pennsylvania estate, with tragic results. Miller took best director at Cannes for the film, which is expected to be an Oscar contender come December.

"What happens when everything is for sale? What happens to talent when it's for sale?" Ruffalo reflected on the film. "What happens to people when they're in a system that values almost everything at a price?"

In "Wild Tales," the most raucous film of the festival, those people go berserk. In it, Argentine director Damian Szifron stitches together six outlandish, comic tales of revenge.

2 members of Japanese pop group AKB48 attacked

TOKYO (AP)—Two members of the all-female Japanese pop group AKB48 and one staffer have been injured by a saw-wielding man at a fan event.

Japanese media reports and a statement on the group's official blog say that 18-year-old Anna Iriyama and 19-year-old Rina Kawaei were cut on their hands and head. A male staff member also was cut on the hand.

They were taken to a hospital late Sunday afternoon for treatment.

Police arrested the attacker, a 24-year-old unemployed man.

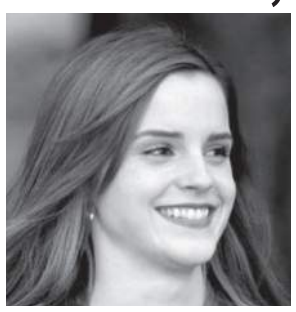
The incident happened in Takizawa city in northeastern Japan.

AKB48 is a wildly popular song and dance troupe that has spawned affiliates across the country and in Indonesia, China and Taiwan. It has a rotating cast of more than 90 young women known in Japan as "idols."

AP

In this Jan. 29, 2014 photo, Rina Kawaei of AKB48 poses in a promotion event in Yokohama, near Tokyo.

Emma Watson graduates from Brown University



Watson

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—It's graduation day for movie star Emma Watson.

The British actress best known as Hermione Granger in the "Harry Potter" movies was among 2,000 graduates receiving degrees Sunday from Brown University. She tweeted a photo of herself in cap and gown.

Watson graduated with a bachelor's degree in English literature from the Ivy League university in Rhode Island.

The 24-year-old started at Brown in 2009, the same year she was named the highest-grossing actress of the decade by the Guinness Book of World Records.

Watson had a busy film career during her time as a student, releasing both parts of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," "This is the End," and the recent Biblical epic "Noah."

Juliette Binoche goes back to her roots at Cannes

CANNES, France (AP)—Juliette Binoche is going back to her roots—in more ways than one.

France's Oscar-winning leading lady hit Cannes this week, lighting up the Croisette for Olivier Assayas' "Clouds of Sils Maria"—back at the festival which first made her name nearly 30 years ago for the acclaimed "Rendez-Vous."

But this year's film, which co-stars a brilliant Kristen Stewart, also goes back to Binoche's more intimate past, weaving in and out of biographical element and blurring fact and fiction.

"It was a challenge to play," she says. "There are parallels."

Binoche plays Maria, a respected older actress asked to act again in a revival of a play that made her famous twenty years ago as an ingenue. This time around, however, she is no longer will play the young gamine. She's the desperate, struggling older woman.

The actress, after all, first played an ingenue in 1985's "Rendez-Vous," the dark examination of sexual desire written by Assayas himself all those years ago. The actress went on to be known for her melancholic, tragic characters such as the one she played in the 1996 "The English Patient"—an Oscar-winning performance.

"Yes, it has its root it in a reality that Olivier knew of me, the me 29 years ago—me as a young actress," she says.

It has the audience asking questioning: Where does Maria end and Binoche begin? Maria played Nina in Chekov's "The Seagull" and so did Binoche.

"It was like a wink to the audience," she says. The film, while ambitious and at times self-consciously intellectual, also pokes fun at itself.

Turning 50 this year, Binoche can take stock of had an acclaimed and varied career that has spanned 1993's "Three Colors: Blue" and 2000's "Chocolat."

"Time has passed and so it's good to reflect," says the still-radiant actress.

Binoche has kind words for another Cannes attendee, who has unsurprisingly drawn comparisons to her, Marion Cotillard—another dark French beauty.

"She's very talented. I think Marion has tremendous passion for work," she says, her eyes lighting up.

Miley Cyrus gets restraining order vs US man

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Miley Cyrus obtained a temporary restraining order Friday against an Arizona man who was recently detained by police while trying to meet the singer-actress.

A Los Angeles judge granted Cyrus the stay-away order against Devon Meek after Cyrus' lawyers filed court documents stating that Meek, 24, believes the singer is communicating to him through her songs.

Los Angeles police arrested the man from the southeastern Arizona city of Sierra Vista on May 16, and he was placed in a psychiatric hospital, where he remains. Meek has said he will continue to try to meet Cyrus once he is released, according to filings by Cyrus' attorneys and a police detective.

Meek was arrested outside a property he believed is owned by Cyrus, but the documents don't specify the location.

Detective Rosibel Smith wrote in a sworn statement that Meek told officers they should shoot him in the head if he couldn't meet Cyrus.

Smith wrote that a police officer who interviewed Meek "informed me that Mr. Meek stated that when he is released from the hospital, he will not stop seeking Ms. Cyrus and that he will continue to go to Ms. Cyrus' residence until Ms. Cyrus accepts him or he dies."

A hearing to extend the restraining order for three years is scheduled for June 16.

There is no declaration from Cyrus in the filing. The pop star rose to fame as the star of the TV show "Hannah Montana" and has recently postponed several concerts while she recovers from her representatives have said is an allergic reaction to antibiotics.

AP

In this Saturday, April 5, 2014 file photo, singer Miley Cyrus performs at the Barclays Center in New York.

Woman's HIV status casts shadow on budding romance

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 32-year-old woman who is HIV-positive. My colleague—who is unaware of my status—recently introduced me to a relative of hers who is also lonely and looking for someone to settle down with. We "clicked" and seem to complement each other in every way, although we haven't had any sexual encounter.

My fear is, how do I disclose my status without being rejected? He seems to have big plans for us, which include settling down and having kids in the future. I am also worried that he might be angry with my colleague and not believe that she is unaware of my status. Please help me get out of this dilemma.

IN A SPOT IN SOUTH AFRICA

DEAR IN A SPOT: I'll try, but there are no guarantees. Much depends upon the strength of this man's feelings for you. It is very important that you have a frank discussion with him before the relationship goes any further.

The fact that you are HIV-positive may be problematic, but it does not mean you cannot have a family together if you wish in the future. Medications and other medical interventions can help keep the virus from being transmitted to your children, and condoms can protect your partner.

If you are upfront about your status, the chances are better that he will believe you when you tell him his relative was not aware that you have HIV when you were introduced. In a case like this, honesty is the best policy.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have three grown sons, all educated, married and successful. Their wives are the daughters I never had, and I treasure them and their children. I'm blessed with three perfect grandchildren under the age of 5.

The problem is my sons. Although I raised them carefully with love, they are like teenagers. They constantly denigrate and fight with each other, and measure my time with them on a competitive scale. I no longer want to be involved with their bickering. Their dad, from whom I am separated, is not involved.

This has created a sad cloud in my otherwise sunny life. I need some advice.

TIED IN KNOTS IN INDIANAPOLIS

DEAR TIED IN KNOTS: Have you told your sons how uncomfortable their sibling quibbling makes you? If you haven't, you should. And if that doesn't improve the situation, I suggest you see them separately. And if that causes problems, please don't make it YOUR problem.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Over the past 10 years or so, I have noticed a vast increase in people who talk while they are yawning. These "yawn-talkers" are not only rude, but also almost impossible to understand. I wouldn't normally care, except that a lot of people do it where I work.

Is it OK to tell them to stop yawn-talking? Or would I be the rude one in the scenario?

WIDE AWAKE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WIDE AWAKE: It wouldn't be rude to ask someone to repeat the statement because you were unable to understand what the person was trying to say. And, by the way, polite folks cover their mouths when they yawn to avoid spraying saliva on the person in front of them.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

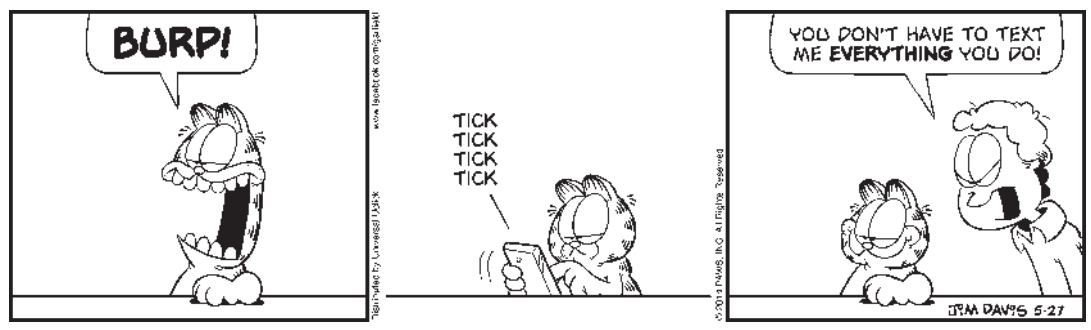
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT.
MY HEART JUMPS AT THE SLIGHTEST SOUND. IT'S ALMOST 2, AND I'M WIDE AWAKE.
WHEN SOMEONE BREAKS INTO YOUR HOME, IT SHATTERS YOUR LAST ILLUSION OF SECURITY. IF YOU'RE NOT SAFE IN YOUR OWN HOME, YOU'RE NOT SAFE ANYWHERE.
A MAN'S HOME IS HIS CASTLE, BUT IT SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BE A FORTRESS.
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



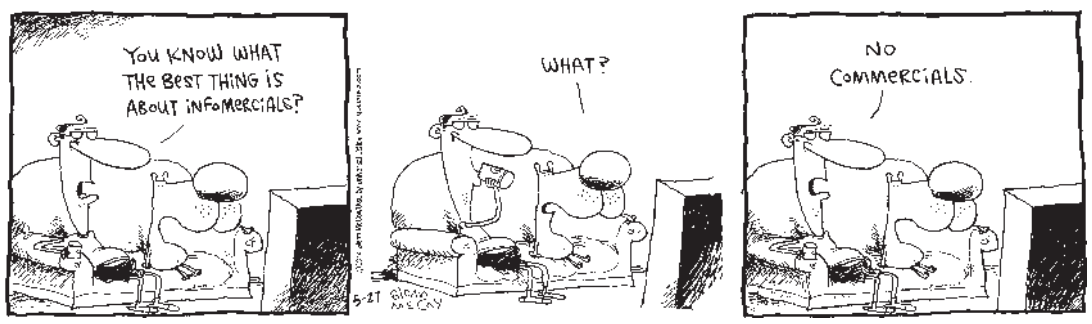
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU'RE WORRIED THAT YOUR NOSE IS GOING TO GET BIG LIKE MINE?
WELL... YES.
I HAVE GOOD NEWS. THERE ARE EXERCISES YOU CAN DO TO KEEP IT SMALL AND SVELTE.
THERE ARE?
OH, SURE. SPOON HANGING. TWITCHES. NOSTRIL CRUNCHES.
OR YOU CAN JUST EMBRACE YOUR NEWMAN HERITAGE
I'LL GET THE SPOONS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

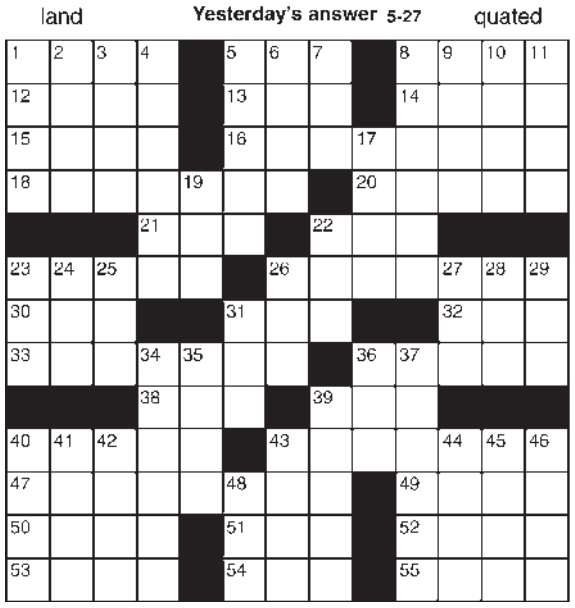
ACROSS
1 Track circuits
5 Suitable
8 Carriage
12 Ladd or Alda
13 Curly's brother
14 "Do — others ..."
15 In that case
16 Bad-luck omen
18 Model's runway
20 Cheer up
21 Leading lady?
22 Winter ailment
23 Rank
26 Game-ending, as a home run
30 Paving gunk
31 Buddhist sect
32 Actor Holbrook
33 Unconventional
36 "The Proper Bostonians" author Cleveland
38 Smartphone download
39 Personal question?
40 Ritzy violin
43 Drum machine
47 Sports-page summary
49 Injure
50 Singer Guthrie
51 Cover
52 "Born Free" lioness
53 Adolescent
54 Two, in Tijuana
55 Ocho —, Jamaica

DOWN
1 Secular
2 — Romeo
3 History
4 Fell in flakes
5 Saunter
6 11th president
7 Afternoon affair
8 Eskimo boot
9 Bygone Peruvian
10 Coup d'—
11 Memorandum
17 Honeycomb compartment
19 Rd.
22 Enthusiast
23 Pontiac muscle car
24 U.K. defense arm
25 "Bow-wow!"
26 Soaked
27 Discovery cry
28 Distant
29 Aviate
31 Microwave
34 Billy who became Captain Marvel
35 Grand-scale
36 "Take on Me" band
37 Mid-May honoree
39 Garden intruders
40 Blind as —
41 Extra
42 Wheelbase terminus
43 Vivacity, in music
44 Java neighbor
45 Approximately
46 Opening day?
48 Antiquated

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	O	S	H	■	F	A	T	■	C	A	M	P
E	S	T	E	■	I	D	O	■	A	P	E	S
A	S	I	A	■	F	O	R	T	R	E	S	S
P	A	R	R	O	T	■	T	H	I	R	S	T
■	■	■	S	K	I	P	■	Y	E	T	■	■
B	U	T	T	R	E	S	S	■	S	U	M	O
A	S	A	■	A	T	E	U	P	■	R	A	P
T	A	L	C	■	H	U	N	T	R	E	S	S
■	■	■	E	N	E	■	D	R	A	W	■	■
I	G	N	O	R	E	■	I	S	A	B	E	L
M	A	T	T	R	E	S	S	■	N	A	N	O
A	L	E	E	■	L	E	E	■	D	R	I	P
C	A	D	S	■	Y	E	S	■	A	D	D	S

Yesterday's answer 5-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Colfer, 24; Jack McBrayer, 41; Paul Bettany, 43; Louis Gossett Jr., 78

Happy Birthday: Taking action will make a difference to the way you do things and how far you get this year. Showing initiative will motivate those around you to pitch in and help. Stay focused on your destination and you'll find a way to overcome any obstacle that comes your way. Love is highlighted and charm will help you get your way. Your numbers are 2, 13, 22, 29, 33, 40, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't waste time when you should be promoting what you have to offer. The effort you put in today will raise awareness and interest in what you do best. Money can be made if you take the initiative. Cut unnecessary costs. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Bottling up your emotions will not solve problems. Think matters through and consider intelligent ways to make things better. Stubbornness will result in your being left out of the loop. Express your thoughts reasonably and make realistic suggestions. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Making assumptions will get you into trouble. Dig deep and get your facts directly from the source. Take action based on what you know and don't feel pressured to follow what someone else decides to do. Take care of personal business. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may have good suggestions, but if you try to meddle in the affairs of others, you will end up being blamed for interference. Do your own thing. Choose to have fun, and the people you care about will join in. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You need a change. Visiting unfamiliar places or making new friends will inspire you to find suitable ways to alter your current routine. Don't let guilt or the demands or responsibilities being handed to you stifle your chance to be happy. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stick to what you know and do best. Determination will lead to success. Don't let a diversion distract you. An unexpected opportunity to make a financial gain may not be as failsafe as you are lead to believe. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): There is plenty going on around you, but if you ignore the signs or waffle when a decision needs to be made, you are likely to miss out on a fabulous opportunity. Embrace change and make a point to be a participant. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Use your charm and mysterious allure to capture interest in what you are doing. Broaden your interests and share your creative thoughts with diverse groups who can benefit from what you have to offer. There is money to be made. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Get involved in activities that allow you to socialize or network. Interacting with people who can benefit from what you have to offer will lead to friendships and business opportunities. Love is in the stars, and romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make a decision and follow through. You will face opposition and must be ready to handle whatever comes your way. Get your facts straight and leave no room for error. Preparation will be the key to your success. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Getting together with old friends or people you may have worked with in the past will bring about both negative and positive results. Take control of any situation you face and use your charm, experience and quick wit to win. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Choose your words carefully when dealing with someone who can disrupt your plans or your personal life. Put greater emphasis on legal, medical and financial matters that need updating. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have stamina and finesse. You are curious and demonstrative.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6	5				
		4		8	9		7	
	1			3		8		
3							1	
2	6	1				5	3	7
	4							9
		5		2			9	
	8		3	1		4		
				4	7			

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	7	9	5	2	3	1	4
4	2	1	7	3	8	5	6	9
5	9	3	1	4	6	7	8	2
1	4	6	8	9	3	2	7	5
7	8	5	2	6	4	1	9	3
2	3	9	5	1	7	8	4	6
3	1	8	6	2	9	4	5	7
9	7	4	3	8	5	6	2	1
6	5	2	4	7	1	9	3	8

Difficulty Level ★ 5/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL **Solution: 7 letters**

J	R	A	L	U	P	O	P	K	A	Y	A	D	D	Y
E	D	R	E	I	N	A	L	I	N	A	N	A	K	A
S	M	O	V	I	E	F	E	L	I	C	I	T	Y	L
S	A	H	T	N	A	M	A	S	E	D	F	B	T	P
T	R	N	E	G	I	A	S	L	M	N	E	A	T	E
O	I	E	M	I	L	Y	A	R	O	A	S	B	I	L
R	E	T	T	S	S	E	N	I	L	L	O	Y	B	B
E	G	S	R	C	Y	M	T	G	L	W	J	E	U	I
L	R	I	P	E	A	A	K	A	Y	O	U	S	L	T
L	A	R	S	T	N	R	C	G	R	R	L	D	I	C
E	C	K	T	I	O	D	A	C	N	B	I	N	M	E
B	E	E	G	Y	Ⓢ	Ⓖ	Ⓤ	Ⓗ	E	I	E	I	I	L
A	L	A	W	E	L	I	C	E	C	B	N	L	T	L
S	M	E	Z	I	M	O	T	S	U	C	E	I	E	O
I	N	N	E	R	S	T	A	R	H	A	I	R	D	C

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Addy, Baby, Bitty, Cecile, Celebrate, Characters, Collectible, Customize, Dining, Emily, Eyes, Felicity, Girl, Hair, Hugs, Imagination, Inner Star, Isabelle, Jess, Josefina, Julie, Kanani, Kaya, Kristen, Lanie, Limited, Lindsey, Marie Grace, Mattel, Molly, Movie, New York, Play, Pleasant, Popular, Rebecca, Rowland, Saige, Samantha, Store, Trend

Yesterday's Answer: Salads

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38,** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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Email resume to asiana@hanmi-saipan.com.

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Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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of Skydiving Operation Chef Instructor. Annual salary: $24,000. Applicant must be a skydiver with experience of no less than 15,000 jumps. Have extended knowledge in skydiving and tandem operation, at least 2 years experience in managing skydiving and tandem operation, to hold tandem instructor rating or manufacturer endorsement. Have knowledge and experience in aerial photography (handy cam) and editing video and photo materials. Communication in foreign languages is a plus.
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(2) Barber
(2) All Around Beautician
(1) H.E. Parts Specialist
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P.O. Box 506118, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) CAD Manager – Required Bachelor's degree plus 5 years experience.
Proficiency in AutoCAD 13, Google Sketchup 2013 and Microsoft Office. Respond to N15 Architects by Email to admin@n15architects.com

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
1 General Maintenance Worker
Duties: Performs various building maintenance work, such as carpentry, plumbing, mason, electrical repair and maintenance of appliances and perform yard work.
Qualifications: High School Graduate with 3 years related experience. Salary $5.55/hour
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Must have at least 3 yrs work experience in customer service. Must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards. Can speak and understand Japanese. Have knowledge in Japanese products.

All applicants must provide current police clearance , must have a reliable transportation, and must agree to drug test. All resume (w picture) can be turn in at Okadaya office . No phone calls please, must apply in person.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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Bachelor Degree in Accounting (may be foreign equivalent); 3 years experience; analyze financial information and prepare income statement, cash flow, balance sheet, account receivable and payables, CNMI individual & corporate income tax, federal individual & corporate income tax return preparation, various US States individual & corporate income tax return.

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P.O. Box 504053 Saipan, MP 96950.

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- Multi lingual skills are big plus
- Computer skills (Microsoft Word and Excel), Internet, social network
- Good communication skills
- US Citizen or Green Card is big plus
- Based in Tinian is big plus

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jump@skydivemarianas.com

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dba
SAIPAN HEALTH CLINIC

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- Must be a certified pharmacy technician.

Interested applicant must submit resume or pick up an application at Saipan Health Clinic in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on 06/20/2014 at 4:00p.m. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2901 ext. 124.

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Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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Looking for an experienced administrator/coordinator:

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization with over 142 business members and is the largest private business organization in the CNMI.

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- Intermediate to advanced MS Office, calendaring, correspondence, event planning
- Proven clear thinker, well organized, solution oriented
- Self-starter, efficient, productive, prompt
- Must have own transportation

Salary: $8 to $12 hourly, medical insurance.

Please submit resume with cover letter and references in person to Chamber office during weekday hours.
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Thunder beat Spurs 106-97, cut deficit to 2-1

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Serge Ibaka pointed to the sky, soaking in the cheers from the adoring home crowd moments before coming out of a game that just a few days earlier, he never imagined he could play.

He scored 15 points in a dramatic return from what was thought to be a season-ending left calf strain, helping the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the San Antonio Spurs 106-97 on Sunday night in Game 3 of the Western Conference finals.

Ibaka started after missing the first two games of the series. The Thunder originally said he would miss the rest of the playoffs, but changed course Friday. His presence helped the Thunder dominate and cut the Spurs' lead in the series to 2-1.

Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks took Ibaka out with 3:17 remaining and the Thunder ahead by 20.

"When you talk about a teammate, that's everything you want in a teammate," Thunder forward Kevin Durant said. "I gained so much more respect for Serge for sacrificing himself for the team. Regardless of what happened tonight, that's something you want beside you."

Ibaka made six of seven shots and was a threat that gave Durant and Russell Westbrook relief. Westbrook had 26 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, and Durant added 25 points and 10 rebounds.

On defense, Ibaka was a strong physical presence who blocked and altered shots and used his still formidable mobility to close out on shooters. He had seven rebounds, four blocks and a seemingly endless amount of energy.

"Serge has put so much work in throughout the season that missing a couple of days didn't hurt him," Westbrook said. "Tonight, he jumped right back into where he was."

Manu Ginobili scored 23 points and Tim Duncan added 16 points and eight rebounds for the Spurs.

Game 4 is Tuesday night at Oklahoma City.

The Thunder outrebounded the Spurs 52-36 after losing the battle of the boards in the first two games. San Antonio, which shot at least 50 percent in the first two games, shot just 40 percent on Sunday night. The first two games looked like a layup drill for the Spurs. This time, they were forced to reset numerous times. The passes were not as quick or as easy.

"I was very disappointed that we didn't come out with more of a foot in the neck sort of attitude," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "They killed us on the boards, they beat us in 50-50 balls and that's very disappointing to me."

San Antonio won Game 2 112-77, leaving the Thunder humiliated.

"I knew that we were a better team than losing by 30," Brooks said. "It's not us. It was us that night, but we're a much better team than that. I have a lot of respect for San Antonio, but they're not that much better than us."

Things were different from the start with Ibaka's return. Brooks also inserted speedy Reggie Jackson into the starting lineup in Thabo Sefolosha's place. Jackson finished with 15 points.

"We bounced back tonight. We always talk about that bounce-back ability and we had that tonight," Brooks said.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka (9) and forward Kevin Durant (35) exchange high-fives in the fourth quarter of Game 3 of an NBA basketball playoff series in the Western Conference finals against the San Antonio Spurs, Sunday, May 25, 2014, in Oklahoma City.

The crowd roared when Ibaka's name was announced during pregame introductions, and it got even louder when he started playing. He had eight points, three rebounds and two blocks in just over six minutes of play in the first quarter.

Twice in the final minute of the first half, Ginobili hit 3-pointers, and both times, Westbrook answered with a 3-pointer. The last one, with 0.6 seconds left, gave the Thunder a 57-53 lead. Oklahoma City shot 56 percent in the first half but turned the ball over 12 times. Ginobili had 20 points and made 5 of 7 3-pointers before the break to keep the Spurs close.

Oklahoma City extended its lead to 83-76 at the end of the third quarter. A runner by Durant, then a 3-pointer by Caron Butler pushed the Thunder lead to 90-76 with just over 10 minutes to play.

"Hopefully we realize that if we're not intense, not very sharp and don't hustle like crazy, we're not going to win here," Ginobili said. "They showed us reality. Hopefully we react in game four and play a much better game."

Pacers seeking breakthrough, Heat aim to improve

MIAMI (AP)—In the 2011 NBA Finals, LeBron James spent too much time for his liking talking about his purported rivalry with an easily excitable guard named Stevenson.

There's a new rival now.

His name sounds the same. Different spelling, though.

Back then, it was Dallas' DeShawn Stevenson. In these Eastern Conference finals, it's Indiana's Lance Stephenson in the foil role. James sees the obvious parallels but isn't interested in stoking the fires—especially with the Heat leading the Pacers 2-1 heading into Monday night's Game 4, one that could allow Miami to put a stranglehold on the series.

"Winning the game is more important," James said. "I understand what the main goal is."

Still, it seems fair to say that Stephenson and James got each other going often in Game 3. When the Pacers finished practice Sunday, Stephenson talked about how he enjoys ruffling the four-time MVP's feathers.

"To me, I think it's a sign of weakness," Stephenson said. "He never used to say anything to me. I always used to be the one who said, `I'm going to do something to get you mad.' Now he's trying to do it to me. So I feel like it's a weakness. I feel like I'm doing something right because I'm getting under his skin, but I've definitely got to keep stepping up to the plate and be more aggressive when he does that."

The way Stephenson sees it, it's a little-brother vs. big-brother sort of scenario.

That's precisely the analogy Pacers coach Frank Vogel broke out on Sunday when talking to his team. Indiana was ousted by Miami in the 2012 playoffs, again in the 2013 playoffs, and now needs to beat the Heat in three of the next four games to avoid that same fate this year.

"The little brother spends his whole life getting beat up by the big brother, getting beaten in sports, sporting events, 1-on-1 basketball and what-not," Vogel said. "All those years of getting beat up builds him up to the point where he ultimately takes on the big brother."

So in Game 4, the Pacers will take on the big brother Heat again—with the knowledge that a 3-1 deficit could be especially dire given how good the Heat have proven to be when they get a close-out opportunity.

No, Monday isn't a must-win for Indiana.

But it probably ranks fairly close to that.

"We're pretty upbeat," Pacers forward David West said. "We don't get down on ourselves. The next game is a different game."

Miami is essentially saying the same sorts of things. The Heat are up 2-1, and surely understand that if it wasn't for some late-game rallying they could be in a 3-0 hole.

Indiana has led for nearly 99 of the 144 minutes played so far in this series, or about 69 percent of the time. Miami has led for just under 37 minutes, or about 26 percent. Somehow, it's the Heat in control after three games.

Go figure.

"Ultimately, you just have to find a way," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Our guys, the last two games, it's been very competitive, very close. Our better basketball has been at the end. What we're looking for is more consistency."

Miami's first-quarter numbers in this series: An average of 19 points on 45 percent shooting.

Miami's fourth-quarter numbers in this series: An average of 26 points on 53 percent shooting.

The finish flourishes have been needed, too.

"Yeah, we haven't played our best game," James said. "They probably feel the same way. We haven't started how we want to, how we need to. So we think our best basketball is yet to come."

Ray Allen gave Miami 16 big points off the bench in Game 3, all in the second half, and that was enough to give James and Dwyane Wade—who combined for 49 on 18 for 30 shooting—the extra help needed to get the Heat over the top and help them erase what was a 15-point deficit.

Stephenson blamed Indiana's turnovers, and the Heat turned 19 of those into 26 points.

So on that point, Stephenson and James probably agree. Everything else, probably not so much, but James wasn't looking to escalate any verbal jousting match Sunday.

"One thing I'm not going to do is give you all a storyline with LeBron and Stephenson," James said. "I'm not going to do that. It's the Pacers versus the Heat."

Dave Joerger spurns Minnesota, staying in Memphis

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Dave Joerger watched Memphis Grizzlies owner Robert Pera fire two of the team's top basketball executives after a 50-win season and had a sinking feeling that he was next.

So he headed back home to Minnesota to talk to the Timberwolves about their coaching opening, figuring he couldn't pass up the job if, as rumored, Pera was unhappy with the first-round loss to Oklahoma City in the playoffs. It turns out all that was needed was a little communication.

After Joerger interviewed with the Timberwolves twice in three days, Pera had several conversations with the coach and convinced him to stay in Memphis, where Joerger has spent the last seven years.

"I never really talked (one-on-one) with Joerger before this weekend," Pera tweeted on Sunday. "I think he's a great coach."

Pera's efforts to keep Joerger marked a reach toward stability after two seasons filled with turnover in the front office and on the bench. Last summer, Pera decided not to bring back popular coach Lionel Hollins, who had just finished leading the Grizzlies to the Western Conference finals, because of reported disagreements with executives including CEO Jason Levien and director of player personnel Stu Lash.

In stepped Joerger, who was an assistant in Memphis the previous six years. He guided an injury-plagued team to the seventh seed in the West and took the Thunder to seven games in the first round of the playoffs. But Pera again decided to change things up, getting rid of Levien and Lash.

Pera then granted the Timberwolves permission to interview Joerger, which was widely viewed as a sign for the coach to get while the getting was good. Joerger, who is from Staples, Minnesota, met with Wolves president of basketball operations Flip Saunders on Thursday, then with a group of Wolves officials including owner Glen Taylor on Saturday evening before boarding a plane back to Memphis.

Joerger and Saunders have known each other for years, and the small-town coach also hit it off with Taylor, but left without any agreement in place.

That's when Pera reached out directly to Joerger, offered to sweeten his contract in a good faith gesture to assure Joerger of his job security and had conversations that put the two men on the same page.

"Minnesota did everything right," agent Warren LeGarie said. "Dave would've had no problem going there. It was just that he and owner Robert Pera were able to come to a much clearer understanding and ultimately the owner made it clear. He backed it up with words and deeds."

Beckett pitches no-hitter, Dodgers stop Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Josh Beckett pitched the first no-hitter of his decorated career and the first in the majors this season, leading the Los Angeles Dodgers over the Philadelphia Phillies 6-0 on Sunday.

Beckett struck out six, walked three and didn't come close to allowing a hit against a lineup that included two former NL MVPs and four former All-Stars.

The 34-year-old right-hander, who needed surgery last year after a nerve condition left him unable to feel his fingertips, threw 128 pitches. He fanned Chase Utley on a called strike three to end the game.

Beckett (3-1) pitched the Dodgers' first no-hitter since Hideo Nomo beat Colorado at Coors Field in 1996, and the 21st in franchise history. Sandy Koufax threw four.

It was first no-hitter in the majors since Miami's Henderson Alvarez did it against Detroit on the final day of the 2013 season.

Beckett became the first visiting pitcher to throw a no-hitter in Philadelphia since Montreal's Bill Stoneman in 1969 at Connie Mack Stadium.

A three-time All-Star, Beckett was the MVP of the 2003 World Series.

A.J. Burnett (3-4) lost in a matchup against his former Marlins teammate.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Josh Beckett, center, celebrates with catcher Drew Butera, left, and first baseman Adrian Gonzalez after pitching a no-hitter baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Sunday, May 25, 2014, in Philadelphia.

Braves 7, Rockies 0

In Atlanta, Evan Gattis homered twice to support Julio Teheran's six scoreless innings as the Atlanta Braves beat Colorado.

Justin Upton and Chris Johnson added two-run homers for the NL East-leading Braves, who have won six of eight.

Rockies shortstop Troy Tulowitzki left in the eighth and appeared to slightly limp as he walked off the field. He said he hit his left foot on a backswing, but said he thought he was OK.

Teheran (4-3) lowered his ERA to 1.77. He gave up four hits and struck out six.

Franklin Morales (3-4) was chased in the fifth.

Brewers 7, Marlins 1

In Miami, Jimmy Nelson pitched 5 2-3 scoreless innings in his season debut for the Milwaukee Brewers in a win over Miami.

The Brewers' top prospect was recalled from Double-A Huntsville to start for Yovani Gallardo, who is nursing a sore left ankle.

Nelson (1-0) allowed five hits and three walks, but Miami went 0 for 7 against him with runners in scoring position.

Ryan Braun had four hits, including a double and a triple for the Brewers. Jonathan Lucroy had two doubles and a triple, and Khris Davis doubled twice.

Randy Wolf (0-1) made his first start since September 2012. The 37-year-old lefty, trying to come back from the second Tommy John surgery of his career, gave up nine hits and six runs in five innings.

Nationals 5, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Ian Desmond hit a pair of RBI singles as the Washington Nationals ended a four-game losing streak by beating Pittsburgh.

The Pirates had four in a row.

Doug Fister (2-1) allowed one run and six hits in 5 1-3 innings with four strikeouts and no walks. Rafael Soriano pitched a perfect ninth for his 11th save.

Francisco Liriano (0-5) is winless in 14 consecutive regular-season starts, dating to last Sept. 10.

Padres 4, Cubs 3

In San Diego, Ian Kennedy pitched six strong innings as the San Diego Padres defeated the Chicago Cubs.

Kennedy (3-6) allowed one run and two hits. Huston Street got his 14th save in as many chances despite giving up a two-run homer to Starlin Castro in the ninth inning.

The Cubs, who had four hits, were trying to win their first series since Sept. 9-11 in Cincinnati.

Jason Hammel (5-3) held the Padres hitless until the fifth.

Diamondbacks 2, Mets 1, 1st game
Mets 4, Diamondbacks 2, 2nd game

In New York, Daisuke Matsuzaka pitched six solid innings in his first start of the season and helped out with an RBI single as the New York Mets salvaged a doubleheader split with Arizona.

Bobby Abreu added a run-scoring double in a rare chance to play.

The 33-year-old Matsuzaka (2-0) had been relieving for the Mets. Jenrry Mejia pitched the ninth for his third save after getting the loss in the first game.

Zeke Spruill (0-1) lost after being promoted from Triple-A before the game.

In the opener, the Diamondbacks turned a season-high five double plays. They used an error by second baseman Daniel Murphy in the ninth to win.

Evan Marshall (2-0) won in relief and Addison Reed got his 14th save. Mejia (4-1) took the loss.

Giants 8, Twins 1

In San Francisco, Michael Morse doubled three times and drove in four runs and Madison Bumgarner stayed unbeaten in May as the San Francisco Giants beat Minnesota to complete a three-game sweep.

Hunter Pence homered as the Giants improved to 6-0 in interleague games this year. They have the best record in the majors.

Bumgarner (6-3) earned his fourth straight win, striking out 10 and giving up three hits in seven innings. He fanned Joe Mauer three times.

Nolasco (2-5) allowed nine hits over 4 2-3 innings.

Cardinals 4, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Adam Wainwright became the National League's first eight-game winner by dominating Cincinnati again as the St. Louis Cardinals pulled away to a victory that completed another successful series against their division rival.

The Cardinals are 6-3 against the Reds this season. They've won 10 of their last 11 series together.

Wainwright (8-2) gave up five hits in eight innings and matched his career high with 12 strikeouts.

Tony Cruz and Kolten Wong each had a pair of singles and drove in a run off Mike Leake (2-4). Wong also stole a pair of bases.

Rays 8, Red Sox 5

In St. Petersburgh, Florida, the World Series champion Boston Red Sox lost their 10th straight game, falling into their longest slump in 20 years and brawling with the Tampa Bay Rays during an 8-5 defeat Sunday.

Rays pinch-hitter Sean Rodriguez connected for a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the seventh. Yunel Escobar hit a two-run double later in the inning and then took third on defensive indifference, setting off the fracas.

Escobar, Rodriguez and Boston's Jonny Gomes were all ejected.

This is Boston's worst losing streak since an 11-gamer from June 8-19, 1994. The Red Sox have been outscored 52-24 over their last 10 games.

Rangers 12, Tigers 4

In Detroit, Alex Rios tripled and drove in three runs, and the Rangers rolled to another Texas-sized rout of Detroit, beating Justin Verlander and the Tigers.

Texas took three of four in the series, scoring 35 runs in the process. The Tigers have lost six of seven, and even Verlander (5-4) couldn't come close to stopping the slide.

The Detroit right-hander allowed nine runs—six earned—in 5 1-3 innings in one of the worst starts of his career.

Michael Choice homered for the Rangers in the second, and Texas broke the game open with five runs in the fifth.

Colby Lewis (4-3) allowed two runs and five hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Blue Jays 3, Athletics 1

In Toronto, Edwin Encarnacion homered and J.A. Happ won his third straight start as the Blue Jays completed a three-game sweep of Oakland, beating the Athletics.

The Blue Jays, who lead the AL East, won their season-best sixth straight. It's Toronto's longest streak since an 11-game run last June. The Blue Jays have won 11 of 13 and 16 of 21.

The AL West-leading Athletics lost their fourth straight, their longest losing streak of the season. Oakland, which came in leading the AL in runs, has scored just seven times in the past four games.

Happ (4-1) allowed four hits in a season-high seven innings. He walked three and struck out a season-high seven.

Orioles 4, Indians 2

In Baltimore, Manny Machado and Nelson Cruz homered and Steve Pearce had three hits as the Orioles beat the Cleveland Indians for a split of the four-game series.

Miguel Gonzalez (3-3) bounced back from a shaky start to hold the Indians to two runs and four hits over six innings. He's 3-0 in three career starts against Cleveland.

Zach Britton, the third Orioles reliever, worked a perfect ninth to earn his second save and complete the five-hitter.

Back in the lineup after missing two days with a right groin strain, Machado hit an opposite-field drive to right against Trevor Bauer (1-2) to put Baltimore ahead 3-2 in the fifth.

One out later, Cruz hit his major-league leading 16th home run on a 3-2 pitch.

Yankees 7, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Derek Jeter had four hits and Masahiro Tanaka rebounded nicely from his first major league loss, leading the Yankees to a victory over the White Sox.

Brett Gardner had a big two-run single in New York's four-run second inning as the Yankees closed out an extended stay in Chicago with a pair of wins against the White Sox. Brian Roberts added a solo homer in the eighth in his return to the lineup after missing a game with a sore right knee.

Tanaka (7-1) pitched into the seventh inning as New York improved to 3-3 on its unusual nine-game trip to Chicago and St. Louis. The Yankees split two games against the Cubs at Wrigley Field, and then had another split in their four-game set on Chicago's South Side.

Angels 4, Royals 3

In Anaheim, California, Chris Iannetta hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning, lifting the Angels over the Royals.

Reliever Tim Collins (0-3) retired the first batter in the eighth before Iannetta lined a drive into the lower seats in the left-field corner for his fifth homer of the season and second of the series.

Michael Kohn (2-1) pitched a scoreless inning. Ernesto Frieri got three outs for his sixth save, retiring Alcides Escobar on a popup with a runner on third.

Astros 4, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Dallas Keuchel pitched a four-hitter for his second complete game in his last three starts, leading the Astros to a victory over the Mariners.

Keuchel (6-2) struck out six, walked none and allowed just an unearned run that scored on a throwing error in the second inning. He went 8 2-3 innings in a victory over the Angels in his last start, the only thing keeping him from three straight complete games.

George Springer and Marc Krauss hit two-run homers off Hisashi Iwakuma (3-1), who allowed a season-high nine hits.

Springer hit his seventh home run of the month in the sixth inning.

Gwap Gang still unbeaten; Bandits lead Garapan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gwang Gang remained undefeated in three games after routing the ICS Shooters, 94-61, in the second game in the 2013 DLX/IT&E Invitational Basketball League last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Gwap Gang held ICS to single-digit scoring in the first two quarter to break the game wide open and take the lead in Pool B with its 3-0 record. Gwap Gang is the only unbeaten team in the six-squad field with Digital Motion and JP World holding similar 1-1 slates (pending results of last Saturday's games) and ICS tying Flip Top and Hite Beer for the fourth to sixth place with their identical 1-2 cards.

The ICS Shooters, which came from a 76-65 triumph over JP World last week, failed to make it two in a row after registering only 7 and 9 points in the first and second quarters, respectively. Only Djay Ong and Perry Inos lit up the board for ICS in the opening canto, while Gwap Gang had contributions from several players to build a promising 21-7 advantage.

In the second frame, three players scored for ICS, but only Mike Babauta hit more than one field goal. With ICS still struggling offensively, it was nearly outgunned by Dixon Kwon, who dropped 8 of his 10 markers, including three straight baskets, in the second canto to lift Gwap Gang to a big 38-16 lead.

ICS picked up its scoring in the third period, but Gwap Gang still outgunned its foe 26-19, for a 29-point margin, 64-35, going into the final canto. Despite the huge lead, Gwap Gang played no let up in the fourth canto and recorded its biggest output in a quarter, draining 31 markers. ICS also had its most production in the fourth, making 26 points, but these were not enough to redeem the team from an anemic shooting in the first half.

Six Gwap Gang players finished in twin digits with Rodney Sacramento leading the way with his 16 points. Inos paced ICS with his 18 markers.

In the first game, the Bandits (1-2) were ahead against Garapan (0-2), 76-61, when the match was rained-out with 2:34 left in the fourth quarter and the latter had possession.

The Bandits were up by only a hair at the break, 42-41, when they gained more cushion in the third quarter, 61-50, behind the hot shooting of Jaymark De Guzman. The lefty guard drilled three straight triples midway in the third to give the Bandits a safe distance, while Junar Guiab finished what his teammates started, earning the team's last 6 points for their double-digit advantage.

The Bandits carried their momentum in the fourth frame to pad their lead and zero in on their second straight win just less than three minutes left in the game. The Bandits had a 0-2 start in the league before breaking their skid last week with an 81-71 win over Pogi Problems.

Gwap Gang 94 – Sacramento 16, Yap 13, Rabasto 12, Rabauliman 11, Kwon 10, Deleon Guerrero 10, Ano 9, Darag 7, Ito 4, Vertudez 2.

ICS Shooters 61 – Inos 18, Ong 12, Babauta 11, Namelo 8, Brennan 6, Salazar 3, Buniag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-7, 38-16, 64-35, 94-61.

No. 1 Adam Scott wins Colonial on 3rd playoff hole

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Adam Scott has a Texas slam to go with that No. 1 world ranking he will get to keep for now.

Scott capped his first week as the top-ranked player with a comeback victory Sunday at Colonial. He made a 7-foot birdie putt on the third hole of a playoff to beat Jason Dufner and become the first player to win all four PGA Tour events played in the Lone Star State.

"That's a pretty good slam to start with," Scott said. "I'll see if I can find some kind of other slam eventually in my career."

Only days after officially overtaking the injured Tiger Woods for No. 1, Scott bogeyed four of his first nine holes in the opening round at Hogan's Alley. Then midway through the final round, the 2013 Masters champion had a double bogey that dropped him three strokes off the lead.

"It was a great week, I mean, no matter what," he said. "It's another experience, learning experience on how golf is, to get off to such a poor start on Thursday, and kind of claw my way back day to day. ... It's so satisfying in so many ways to get it done."

Scott looked like a No. 1 player with consecutive birdies in the playoff against Dufner, who won the PGA Championship last year.

"It's a good feeling, and maybe some validation," Scott said.

Scott and Dufner both parred No. 18 to start the playoff before matching birdies at the 17th hole. Dufner hit his approach pin high on 17 to 4 1/2 feet, but Scott drained a 14-foot birdie before he even putted.

Dufner, who made a 25-foot birdie putt on No. 18 in regulation, slid a 40-footer past when he and Scott played the 18th hole for the second time during the playoff. Scott then made his 7-footer for his 11th PGA Tour victory, to go along with 13 international titles, only 5 1/2 weeks after the 33-year-old Australian got married.

"It's tough to beat him. He's a great player. It's tough to concentrate, he's so good looking, too," Dufner said. "I thought maybe I could sneak one in there on 17, but he topped me."

Scott and Dufner both shot 4-under 66 to finish at 9 under, the highest winning score at Colonial since 1999. They started the final round part of a seven-way tie for 11th place, but only two strokes behind a quartet of leaders.

CASTRO

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joined the annual tournament for the second time and climbed up to third from fifth place after gaining 205 pinfalls, the most scored by any player in Game 12. She totaled 2,102 pinfalls to beat the 2009 champion Williams, who registered 1,977 in her return to the competition after a four-year absence. Diana Camacho faltered on her bid for a three-peat and settled for fifth place with her 12-game total of 1,927 pinfalls.

The Top 5 finishers received cash prizes and Terre was also presented with the championship trophy during the awards ceremony last Sunday at the Nami Bar of Kanoa Resort.

Other participants in the women's division of the May Masters were Elena Soll (1,911), Ron Cal (1,891), Yho Villavicencio (1,851), Tess Fabie (1,844), Cora Muna (1,836), Lynn Santos (1.797), Kathy Mersai (1,790), Carrie Camacho (1,775), Maridel Camacho (1,753), Diane Chong (1,752), Lala Taitano (1,686), and Sue Ellis (1,611).

In the men's division, Castro prevailed against 24 other participants to bag his second May Masters crown. He got his first in 2010 and finished third last year behind Robert Talavera and 2011 champion Raymond Zapanta.

Talavera boosted his bid for back-to-back champions when he led after Game 11 with 2,210 ppinfalls. Castro and eventual runner-up Rusty Musca were in third and second place, respectively, after 11 games, posting 2,158 and 2,197. However, Castro jumped to first at the end of the competition after knocking down 224 pinfalls against the 178 and 160 of Musca and Talavera, respectively. He totaled 2,382 pinfalls for a seven-pinfall lead over Musca (2,375), while Talavera's meltdown in the last game dropped him to third (2,370).

The 224 in the finale gave Castro a strong finish in the last three games, as he logged 217 and 199 in Games 10 and 11. He had a rollercoaster showing in the first four games (194,181, 185, and 165) before earning 200-plus pinfalls in the next three (215,233, 235) and tallying 157 and 177 in Games 8 and 9.

Joining Castro, Musca, and Talavera in the Top 6 were Percy Omechelang (2,311), Raymond Angeles (2,239), and Edward Baluyan (2,226). The Top 6 in the men's division also got cash prizes, while Castro also brought home a trophy.

Meanwhile, four Guam players also competed in the May Masters with J.D. Castro the best finisher from the visiting group with his eighth-best 2,196 pinfalls. Jay Deleon Guerrero collected 2,103 to rank No. 13, beating Vic San Nicolas (2,058/No.14) and Shawn Avellana (1,569/No.25).

Other bowlers who joined this year's May Masters were Dannie Robles (2,176), Raul Dumapit (2,157), Raphael Zapanta (2,139), Richard Leong (2,050), Ramir Deleon (2,030), Bernard Paraiso (2,019), Wellington Ang (2,000), Roger De Guzman (1,978), Paul Pangelinan (1,900), Jorge Soledad (1,892), Ariel Dumapit (1,859), Ronald Batac (1,839), and Raymond Zapanta (1,749).

CNMI

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the past two years and in Hong Kong just last month. In the Hong Kong event, the Commonwealth players forced a 1-1 draw against the host and also tied Shenzhen in a scoreless draw before losing to Guam.

"Majority of the players on the team know how to play in this level of competition in the AFC, having been to three different tournaments for the past two years. They gained valuable experience in the past tournaments and it will help them perform better this time. " goalkeeper coach Chi Ming Tang said during the send-off ceremony for the squad yesterday at the Kanoa Resort.

"I've been coaching these players for about three years and they have shown significant improvement since the day we began training. They have better chemistry on and off the pitch, understand the game more, and know what are expected from them once they started competing," Tang added.

Joining Tang in the send-off rites are players Luisa Alcantara, Chevy Kate Alipio, Katherine Angeles, Carla Mae Ballesteros, Guinevere Borja, Angelica Carreon, Jerlyn Castillo, Anela Eliza Duenas, Bernadette Horey, Samantha Manacop, Diana Maniacop, De'Jana Muna, Angelia and Lyka Sally, Pinyarat Shanweiler Madeleine Taisacan, Krizel Tuazon, and Angelina Villagomez. Luam Khen Koo is the head coach and will meet the team in Beijing, while Shuk Fun Wong and Mae Ito are the assistant coach and team manager, respectively. Completing the CNMI delegation to the AFC event is team physiotherapist Pam Carhill of Marianas Health Services.

The CNMI bets will leave for China early tomorrow morning and will have a two-day rest before their debut game against Hong Kong at 2pm (12pm Saipan time) at the Xinghe National Football Training Center.

"I like our chances against Hong Kong because this is the same team that we played last month. Hong Kong has a lot of first-timers so we will have an advantage, experience-wise," said Tang, adding South Korea will be the toughest team in the CNMI's bracket (Group B).

The Commonwealth youth players will face the favored South Koreans on Saturday and will close out pool play with a match against Chinese-Taipei this Sunday. The Top 2 teams in the pool will advance to the semifinals and winners of the two Final Four games will collide for the championship. Group A has China, Japan, Guam, and North Korea.

"We will do our best to represent the CNMI well," said Tuazon, who co-captains the team with Lyka Sally.

Meanwhile, NMIFA president Jerry Tan, who led the send-off ceremony along with NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka and general secretary Ross Zapanta, thanked the players for their continued commitment to the CNMI's training program.

"This is just the start of more off-island tournaments for you and I hope you will continue to commit to the team and play for the CNMI," said Tan, adding that NMIFA is thankful to AFC for inviting the squad anew to field a team in this weekend's competition.

The youth team, according to Izuka, will be the CNMI's foundation for the squad it will form to represent the Commonwealth to the preliminary tournament of the 2022 Women's Asian Cup.

"That's our ultimate goal, to send a team to the preliminary tournament in 2021 so I hope you girls will continue training and improve your skills," Izuka said.

Both Izuka and Tan also thanked the players' parents for supporting their children and the NMIFA staff for preparing the documents needed for the competition.

"It's always hard to prepare and send a team to off-island competitions so let's thank the NMIFA staff for doing a lot of work to ensure you can all go to Beijing," Tan said.

SAIPAN

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Jr., and Virolanson Secharmidal.

The selection needed only five innings to wrap up its series against Tinian. Muna, Camacho, and Jones pitched in the Game 3 shutout and combined for a three-hitter. Muna started out for the Saipan Senior All-Stars, gave up two hits and got four strikeouts in two innings. Camacho relieved Muna at the top of the third and the former allowed only one hit and helped the selection work a 1-2-3 play on Tinian in the next two innings, while striking out three batters. Jones closed out for the Saipan All-Stars and finished off Tinian after only three batters, as he got two straight strikeouts, following a 6-3 putout play on Tinian leadoff batter Bradley Lizama.

The Saipan Senior All-Stars complemented its solid pitching with a consistent hitting, as they got into the board early, scoring five runs. The host kept going, adding four more in the second before failing to light up the board in the third. The selection then made up for the runless third with three and four runs in the last two innings to secure the easy win via 10-run mercy rule.

In the two other games, Tenorio's wards also took only five innings each to topple Tinian. In Game 1, the Saipan Senior All-Stars scored in each of the five innings, recording their best output in the third inning after getting seven runs. The host earlier gathered 10 runs in the first two innings for a 10-2 advantage. Tinian registered the two runs at the bottom of the first off Saipan's errors and went without runs in the next two innings before picking up two more useless runs in the fourth. By the end of the fourth inning, Saipan was way ahead, 20-4 and completed the Game 1 demolition with a six-run top of the fifth.

In Game 2, a nine-run top of the second inning put the Saipan Senior All-Stars in control of the afternoon match en route to the shutout win. The host nearly threw a no-hitter, allowing only a single at the bottom of the fourth inning. Palacios, Muna, and Sakisat pitched in Game 2 and they combined for seven strikeouts, allowing no runner to pass second base.

With the lopsided series win, the Saipan Senior All-Stars, which will now be known as the CNMI Senior All-Stars, will travel to Clark in the Philippines for the June 30-July 6 regional tournament.

MISO Junior High Basketball League Finals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Raptors player gets ready for a free throw shot during their title game against Team 3 in the junior high school division of the MISO Basketball League early this month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Players from both teams are from Hopwood Junior High School.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Kap players pose with their championship trophy after beating Hopwood Team 2, 24-23.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers, coaches, and referees pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the league.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Team 3 player goes up for a running shot.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Team 3 player uses a pick from his teammate to drive to the basket.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Raptors player looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Raptors player pulls up for a short jumper.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Referee Arnold Mesa watches two players battle for the loose ball.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Raptors player drives against two defenders.

Beckett pitches no-hitter, Dodgers stop Phillies

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Sports

Thunder beat Spurs 106-97, cut deficit to 2-1

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Saipan Senior All-Stars sweep Tinian

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Senior All-Stars earned the right to represent the CNMI to the 2013 Asia Pacific Baseball Tournament after posting a three-game sweep for two days against the Tinian All-Stars during the 2014 CNMI District Tournament at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The series of games in the district meet started last Sunday with the host walloping the visitors in Game 1, 26-17. Game 2 was also played last Sunday with the Saipan Senior All-Stars easing past Tinian anew, 17-0, to move one win away from sweeping the visiting team.

The Patrick Tenorio-managed Saipan Senior All-Stars went on to complete their domination of Tinian yesterday, coasting to another shutout victory, 16-0. Joining Tenorio on the winning squad were coaches Anthony Leon Guerrero and Jack Deleon Guerrero. The members of the team are Craig Aguon, Jessie Brel, Jerald Cabrera, Nathan Camacho, Kelvin Deleon Guerrero, Jeffrey Dela Cruz, Alfonso Evangelista, Darion Jones, Joseph Lifoifoi, Michael Muna, Franko Nakamura, Jhace Palacios, Jobe Reyes, Raymond Yamagata, Melvin Sakisat

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Darion Jones pitches for the Saipan Senior All-Stars at the bottom of the fifth inning of their game against Tinian All-Stars in the 2014 CNMI District Tournament yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Alex Castro, left, and Lori Terre pose with their trophies and cash prizes during the awards ceremony for the 32nd CNMI May Masters Tournament last Sunday at the Nami Bar of Kanoa Resort.

Castro, Terre rule CNMI May Masters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Garapan Elementary School teacher Lori Terre won her debut in the women's division 32nd CNMI May Masters Tournament, while former champion Alex Castro topped the men's category of the weekend competition at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Terre, who just started competing in a Thursday league a few months ago and tried joining the May Masters to gain more experience, bested 16 other female keglers, including back-to-back champion Diana Camacho. The May Masters first-timer collected 2,036 in 13 games for a 22-pinfall winning margin over Gloria Omechelang (2,014). Terre's debut win was highlighted by two 200-plus pinfall performance (209 and 203 in Games 2 and 3) and her scores in the 10 other games were 144, 157, 167, 164, 150, 177, 157, 142, 177, and 189. Her score in Game 12 (189) was the second best in that game and it allowed her to surpass Omechelang.

Omechelang was holding on to a one-pinfall lead against Terre after 11 games, 1,848-1,847, and eventually lost the lead when the former tallied only 166 pinfalls in Game 12. The eventual runner-up record at least 200 pinfalls in two games (208 and 200) to go with her 166, 171, 147, 185, 157, 192, 114, 129, and 179 in the nine other games.

Joining Omechelang and Terre in the Top 5 were the returning Janice Camacho and Emi Williams and Diana Camacho. Janice Camacho

See CASTRO on Page 26

CNMI U14 team off to AFC tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A much-experienced CNMI U14 National Team will be competing in the AFC U14 Girls Regional Championships in Beijing, China this weekend.

The squad is made up of several players who had represented the CNMI in competitions in Nanjing and Beijing

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The CNMI U14 National Team players, team officials, and NMIFA officers pose for a group photo during a send-off ceremony yesterday at the Kanoa Resort. The team is competing in the AFC U14 Girls Regional Championships in Beijing, China this weekend.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO